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CITY PAGES

February 7-13, 2018





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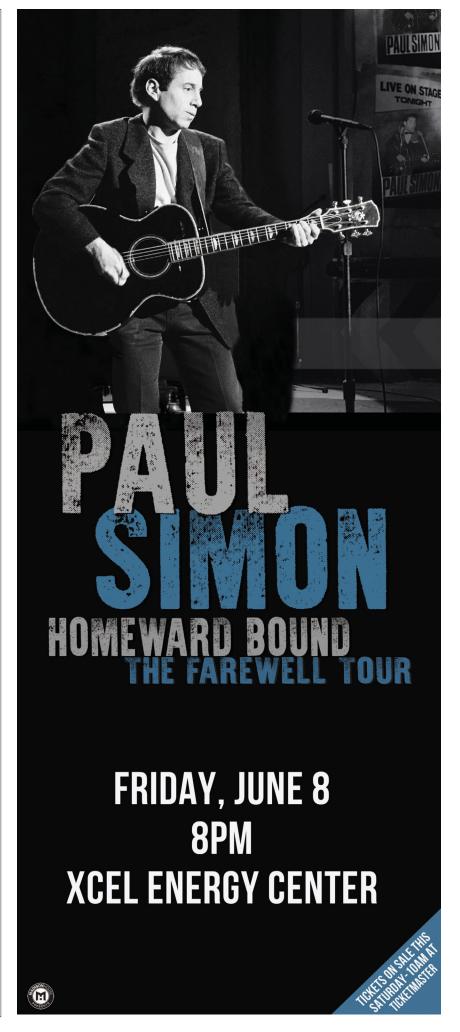
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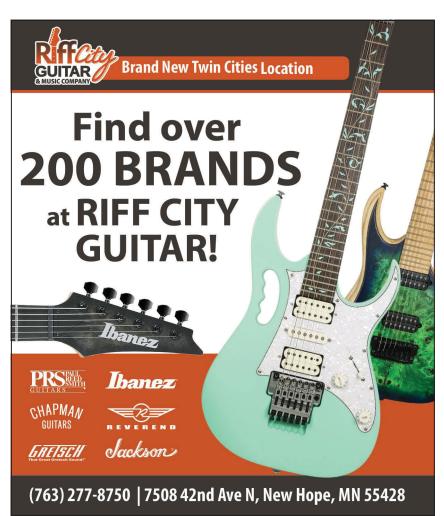
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THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

\$240

What one downtown lot was charging for Super Bowl parking

1,500

Number of private jets that flew in for the big game

\$1.1 million

Money raised by Congressman Tim Walz, the most among DFL candidates for governor

\$260,000

Amount raised by Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, the most among Republican candidates

"The neighborhood really went downhill after Arby's closed,' said no one ever."

Reader Brad Hemak responds to "Uptown Arby's has closed, tragically," at citypages.com.

RUMOR MERCHANTS

THE MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN PARTY dove

ever deeper into weirdness last week when state Reps. Kathy Lohmer (Stillwater) and Cindy Pugh (Chanhassen) peddled rumors that Muslims were plotting to infiltrate party

Forget the difficulty of going unnoticed in a nearly all-white party largely consisting of old men. And forget that Muslims might feel unwelcome among people who vilify them the same way an older brother taunts his kid sister about the monster under her bed.

Even Hennepin County commissioner and gubernatorial candidate Jeff Johnson fueled the rumors. To be a GOP official these days means never encountering the notion of shame

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

CLUB JAGER protested, closes early on second night back

EAGLES PLAYER

thinks Minneapolis restaurants conspired to shut him out

VICTORIA'S SECRET closed: Is Minneapolis' Uptown

neighborhood finally dead? God takes out

St. Paul billboard to send a message

to MICHELE BACHMANN

Minneapolis will fine you for putting too many cars in YOUR OWN DRIVEWAY

POLICE STATE

In Northeast, parking in your own driveway brings a \$200 fine

egulatory ignorance is parking bliss.
Ying Lee and her family moved to northeast Minneapolis two years ago, and have since lived in a relative parker's paradise. The house's back driveway, half paved and half gravel, can fit six cars, perfect for a family of seven with five cars.

Yet two days into the new year, the family received a notice that, due to a city of Minneapolis ordinance, they're only allowed to park two cars in their oversized driveway. The family obliged, but the weather did not.

When the city called a snow emergency on January 15, Lee's family thought they were being dutiful residents by getting their cars into the driveway and leaving the street to the plows. She says they planned to leave the cars in the driveway for the night, then move three of them back to the street.

The next day, the family was slapped with a hefty \$200 fine from the city. Lee was stunned by the city's lack of understanding, and by the penalty.

"I saw that, and I just kind of screamed, 'What? Two hundred dollars?" Lee said.

Lee posted about her driveway ordeal on Facebook, where she found many sympathetic citizens; the post was met with nearly 500 replies. Most expressed shock that the ordinance exists. Others shared a few expletives in solidarity with the Lees. Many did both.

They might be even more shocked to learn fines like Lee's are hardly a rare occurrence. In the last year, Minneapolis handed out over 275 fees in relation to this violation.

In an email, Greta Bergstrom, communications director for the city, said the ordinance is in place to "ensure residential lawns do not become parking lots."



Ying Lee's driveway in northeast Minneapolis, which she says can fit six cars; the city doesn't want it to have more than two.

Bergstrom also noted that residents are only fined if they don't stop after the initial notice.

Ward 2 Councilmember Cam Gordon said he has only vaguely heard of instances where this is an issue, and struggled to come up with a reason for it.

"I'm not even sure it's illegal," he said. "I'm usually pretty good at mimicking a good rationale for coming up with these things."

For what it's worth, Lee and her family are attempting to appeal the fine, but have not heard back from the city. —DAVID CLAREY



Live from Minneapolis

Observations from a three-night Super Bowl bar crawl

FRIDAY

Nicollet Mall, 10:30 p.m.: Three older gentlemen wearing blue Super Bowl volunteer coats are standing on a street corner, watching the crowd pass by. One lights a cigarette, smiles at the other two, and says, "This is the best fucking job I ever had."

Zelo, 11:45 p.m.: A dull-looking middle-aged man is engaged in an intimate conversation with a woman at least 30 years younger. She's wearing what looks like two cocktail napkins held together with string. She is working very hard to smile.

Keiran's, 1:30 a.m.: A guy in a bright blue sport coat decorated with the Patriots logo holds court with younger men he refers to as "his guys." He's their boss. A few years ago, one of his guys saw someone wearing the Patriots coat and bought it off his back for \$1,000. I show another Bostonian a text from my mom, a Pats fan, reminding me that sympathy is a fine emotion, but doesn't belong in sports. "Gawwd," the guy gushes. "Ahn't mawms just the best?"

Cowboy Jack's, 2:40 a.m.: A bartender takes my order before that of the guy next to me, a brutish Philadelphian who needs a bunch of shots for his friends. He glares my way. "Fine," he says, "you go first, motherfucker." Our chat does not progress beyond this.

W Hotel, 3:15 a.m.: In dim lighting and amid a glossy haze, people in this lounge

bar linger and leer at everyone, assessing each person as a potential celebrity, sex partner, or both. I fulfill none of these roles.

SATURDAY

Nicollet Mall, 10:30 p.m.: A guy keeps trying to step off the curb, but a Minneapolis cop keeps telling him to wait for the signal. A different guy takes his chances and runs across. The first guy's Boston accent is thick. "How come he got to go?" The cop shakes his head. "Because he's an idiot." Boston guy: "But I'm an idiot!"

Hennepin Avenue, 11:15 p.m.: A woman in a little dress walks alone, arms wrapped around herself, shivering. She looks at the sky and yells, "Why the fuck did I come to Minnesota?"

Gay 90's, midnight: A statuesque drag queen fresh from the stage says she hasn't noticed much, good or bad, from visiting fans. The most interesting thing to happen on this night is when the host has a local woman kicked out for standing next to the stage and stripping off her pants... to reveal her long johns. The tourists on hand cherish a glimpse of Minneapolis culture.

Lumber Exchange Building, 2:30 a.m.: The most interesting thing to do at a Nick Cannon DJ set is to debate whether that's really Nick Cannon DJing. He's wearing sunglasses and has his hoodie pulled up. It's probably him. I tell a guy from Philly

I've spent the week making jokes about Eagles fans' dreadful reputation. "It's all true," he says, then speculates how many beers he'd need to punch a police horse.

SUNDAY

Peppers and Fries, 7 p.m.: A big, bearded Eagles fan drove an RV packed with four friends all the way from Florida, spending the previous night freezing in a parking lot in Zumbrota. Earlier on Super Bowl Sunday, they drove to the Mall of America. The driver behind them suffered a seizure, smashed into the back of the RV, and sent it bouncing into a railing at 50 miles an hour. The experience left two guys "shaken up," and they're staying in for the night. "Me," the guy says, "I can't do that. We've come so far." I can't tell if he's talking about the Eagles or the drive.

Park Avenue, 10 p.m.: One rough-looking man stops to bum a cigarette. "Thirty fuckin' years I lived in north Philly," he says. "I've been cryin' all week. My wife and I are going on a vacation to Mexico next week, and I spent 10 grand coming here this weekend. I'm so fuckin' broke. But they won. The Eagles won."

Brothers, midnight: A tall young guy holding a Mich Golden Light and occasionally dancing to rap stares glassy-eyed across the bar. "Nick Foooooooles!" he yells, over and over, for 10 minutes. Even-



Mike Mullen

tually I notice that he's actually there with someone, another young man, who sips at a Bud Light and says nothing. We all paid a \$20 cover for this experience.

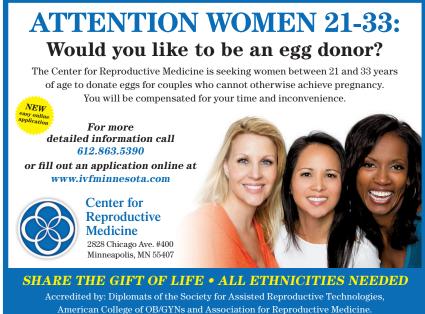
The Loon, 2:30 a.m.: Overheard dialogue, slurred: "Where'd you get that coat?" Answer: "I bought it." I ask the barman who's been the better customers this week. He doesn't hesitate: "Boston. They tip. Philly fans are the worst tippers I've ever seen." Anyone causing trouble? "We had to kick out some Philly fans earlier. And they were sober."

Brit's Pub, 3:30 a.m.: An Eagles fan gulps shots, wringing the last bit out of the weekend before heading to the airport. He wants the team to bet its future on Carson Wentz, the supremely talented quarterback who missed the playoffs with an injury. Where does that leave Nick Foooooooles? He thinks a minute. "You guys should take 'im," he says. Minneapolis just gave him the best weekend of his life, and he doesn't know how to repay this debt. Leaving behind a Super Bowl MVP feels like the least he can do.

mmullen@citypages.com

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MASTERS OF HAWAIIAN MUSIC FEBRUARY 15



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STANLEY JORDAN - SOLO FEBRUARY 19



STRONGER THAN PRIDE A TRIBUTE TO THE PASSIONATE SONGS OF SADE FEATURING CATE FIERRO FEBRUARY 22



NACHITO HERRERA FEBRUARY 24



An Acoustic Evening with ANDERS OSBORNE FEBRUARY 25



RAUL MIDÓN FEBRUARY 27



DONNY MCCASLIN GROUP FEBRUARY 28



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COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

win sisters Kate Beane and Carly Bad Heart Bull consider Minneapolis their land of origin, but they didn't get to grow up here.

They can trace their ancestors to an early 19th-century Dakota settlement on Lake Calhoun called Heyata Otunwe. But then the War of 1862 saw the Dakota forcemarched from Minnesota, their children sent to boarding schools, where they were slapped and spanked for speaking their native language. The sisters spent their formative years moving from place to place, feeling like foreigners in their own country.

Uninspired by school curricula that ignored their history, unwilling to hear the pleading of their father, Syd, both dropped out of high school. They struggled for years to make it in the world without an education, until the family agreed to relocate together to their ancestral Minnesota so the sisters could study the Dakota language.

It was the language that gave them the confidence to pursue higher education. Carly became a lawyer. Kate earned a Ph.D. in American studies, writing her dissertation on the Dakota people who lived in Minneapolis before the arrival of Europeans.

During a graduate course, a fellow stu-

The — STORYTELLERS

Kate Beane and Carly Bad Heart Bull

dent asked what all her research was for. Kate said someday she'd restore the name Bde Maka Ska ("be-DAY mah-KAH-skah") to the lake named for the infamous secessionist John C. Calhoun. People laughed.

People kept laughing, from the Park Board to the Hennepin County Board to the newspaper ads, where the sisters were called radical activists with no respect for the well-to-do residents now residing around the lake. Detractors feared Bde Maka Ska wouldn't roll off the tongue. Others thought the name change was political correctness run amok.

Still, the sisters showed up to countless public meetings, where they led emotional

crowds through slow readings of those three words, exhibited their research, and told their infectious family saga. Knowledge replaced discomfort in the hearts of Minneapolitans who'd spent their lives swimming in Calhoun, and love for the lake itself warmed them to the truth that it had an older, more authentic name. The small but well-funded opposition never showed up to say their piece in person.

The sisters entered 2018 unsure if the lake would ever get its old name back, taking comfort in the fact that even if it all ended in failure, they'd restored a chapter of Minneapolis history to the public memory.

In the end, those who embraced Bde

Maka Ska outnumbered those who didn't. The county affirmed the park board's resolution to retire Calhoun, and the DNR ratified the change in the state register soon after. The sisters, carrying children they've had along the long road to change, drilled in new signs at the shores of Bde Maka Ska on a January morning.

"It had begun to feel like we were holding our breath, always facing an uphill bureaucratic battle," says Kate.

"We poured our hearts into seeing this through. I am proud that our children can witness this historic moment, and will grow up knowing their strong voices can make a difference." -susan du



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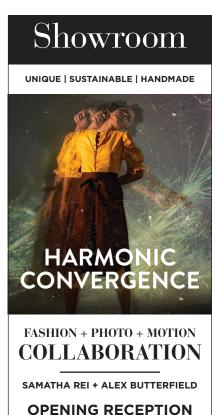


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COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

arcelo Mendieta is better than Santa Claus. Every year at Christmas, while Saint Nick collects all the goodwill, Mendieta is busy sending gifts to his hometown in Ecuador.

He emigrated from San Antonio de Paguancay when he was 15. It's a town of a little over 1,000, one that had no electricity during his childhood. The first time he watched TV, it was on a black-and-white screen.

He would eventually make his way to south Minneapolis, working his way into becoming a partner at the restaurants La Fresca and Rincón. From his own pocket, he would begin to share his good fortune with the less fortunate of his homeland.

San Antonio is very Catholic. It's also very poor. So for the past 15 years, Mendieta has given back what he can at the holidays with the help of family still located there.

"Not much," he says. "Just some money for the kids to get candy."

This is how Mendieta discusses all the work he's done in San Antonio de Paguancay, which now extends throughout the calendar year. Of his collaboration with public school teachers to identify low-income students and provide them with supplies

- The - PRINCE of SAN ANTONIO de PAGUANCAY

Marcelo Mendieta

or pay for them to go on field trips, he says, "They're small things that I think will go a long way."

When discussing the park he helped build five years ago? "It's nothing huge—just something to get a smile out of their faces."

He talks about his restaurants in much the same way. "We're small, neighborhood restaurants. We want to make people happy. We're just trying to do something good." Walk into the vibrant, packed La Fresca space on a Saturday night, where the tables are full of families laughing over queso fondue and couples sharing drinks and snapper ceviche, and you'll see that they're succeeding.

This Christmas was an extra special one for Mendieta, because his kids, Emma and

Ethan, traveled to Ecuador to hand out the candy and toys. He remembers how excited they were to be there, the brightness in their voices when they called to tell him the love they felt helping these people, how happy it made them to give away what they could.

"It really got me, because at that age, I want them to know what's important in their lives," Mendieta says. "I want them to be able to see that it's important to give away. If you've got something, you should share. There's enough for everybody—especially the people who need it the most."

Emma and Ethan got to witness a San Antonio de Paguancay tradition started by their dad, too. On December 24 each year, the people take to the streets and pray, a procession that brings out the whole town. Six years ago, Mendieta and his mom wondered, "What about, instead of people doing that and then they just go away to their house, why don't we keep the celebration going?" So they did. They threw a feast for hundreds in the town center—a custom they've maintained over the six years since.

Mendieta, of course, is characteristically quick to defer credit: "Well, I didn't cook." —EMILY CASSEL







Minneapolis Native Alla Shapiro founded NessAlla Kombucha, one of the nation's first craft kombucha breweries in 2008 with Vanessa Tortolano.

Based in Madison, Wisconsin, Alla travels frequently to Minneapolis to demo new flavors and connect with NessAlla fans in the Twin Cities.

Join the party at NessAlla.com/TwinCities



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

— The — IMMIGRANT'S LAWYER

Kara Lynum

ometimes the lawsuit a lawyer is most proud of is the one she never filed.

Kara Lynum was among the swarm of volunteer attorneys who descended on the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in January 2017 to assist travelers affected by President Trump's first attempt at a Muslim ban. The poorly written executive order had government officials, legal experts, and worried passengers en route to the U.S. all scrambling to determine who the ban affected and how.

Here in Minnesota, that chaos meant that one Somali man returning to the U.S. found himself detained for more than four hours. As volunteer attorneys hurriedly drafted paperwork to sue for his release, Lynum was left to negotiate with an uncooperative border patrol agent who repeatedly denied her access.

"Cool," the St. Paul attorney finally said.
"Can I get your full name for the lawsuit?"

The great released. The detained man

The agent relented. The detained man went home.

The ban went into effect while Lynum was visiting Canada. By the time she touched down in the Twin Cities, concerned lawyers had amassed, hoping to help. With no advance planning, Lynum and two other attorneys (from the Robins Kaplan firm and the University of Minnesota's Center for New Americans) came up with a plan. Shifts of volunteer lawyers (some of whom had zero immigration law experience) were posted at the airport around the clock, while on-call immigration specialists stood by to

answer questions, by phone or on a running Slack chat.

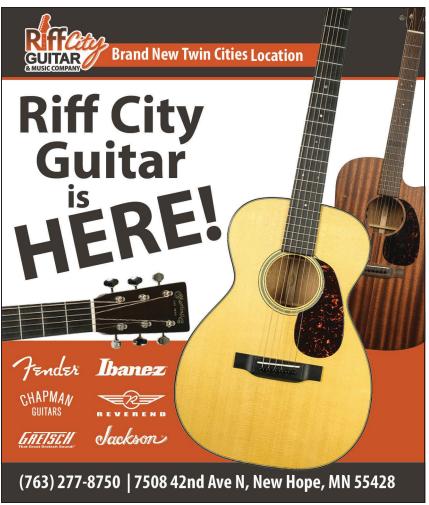
When she opened her own solo practice about six years ago, Lynum hardly expected to encounter the current state of emergency that immigration attorneys now navigate daily. Born and raised in Eau Claire, Lynum graduated from William Mitchell Law School in 2010. "I decided that I would rather solve people's problems than corporations' problems," she says. "To focus on people's lives rather than arguing about money."

On one recent day, Lynum was juggling three meetings, each related to a different change in Trump's immigration policy. One client was losing temporary protected status. Another had been covered by DACA, the Obama administration's deferred action program currently fighting for its life in federal courts. And then she had a consultation related to the Muslimban. "The Trump trifecta," she jokes.

Last month, Lynum mentioned DACA's hefty \$495 filing fee during an MPR appearance and a caller offered to pay for an applicant. After a tweet about this donation went viral, Lynum helped set up a fund with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota that has already raised nearly \$30,000 for DACA applicants.

To stay sane and effective through all this, Lynum recharges where she can. "I'm always inspired by clients who are bearing the brunt of all this and are so graceful about it, and calm, when I feel moments of terror and panic," she says. "And I walk my dog a lot." — KEITH HARRIS











COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

ric Pasi's mission is clear. "I'm not going to stop until we've significantly affected the negative aspects of climate change, and solar power is the number-one source of electricity in the United States."

Through his work as chief development officer with IPS Solar in Roseville, Pasi is staying true to his word. His tireless commitment to clean energy has helped IPS become one of the Twin Cities' fastest growing companies. "Solar is here. It's not something off in the future, somewhere. It's happening now," he says.

Pasi grew up on St. Paul's East Side. After graduating from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, he was inspired by Al Gore's documentary An Inconvenient Truth, as well as the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

"I was moved by the science of climate change, as well as the stark nature of what we are headed towards. I wanted to do something that helped positively impact our planet."

Pasi's first project with IPS-then a fledgling company of five employees working out of a basement—was installing a two-panel hot water system in a residential home. Today, they are installing 20,000-panel solar fields in places like Chisago and Goodhue counties. "We're still close enough to the city and close enough to where power is needed, but

— *The* — ENERGY FUTURIST

Eric Pasi

far enough away where you can find land for your projects."

Some of IPS's most exciting projects are with school districts. The company not only installs solar panels to provide energy, but also works with teachers on renewable energy curricula.

"School districts not only see a way to cut costs, but there's also an opportunity to teach kids how to interpret the data that's coming from these solar rays that helps them understand the relationship between energy and math and science," Pasi says proudly. "We've helped to develop some basic curriculum for schools, and that has been one of the most rewarding things that I do. Not only in helping schools to lower costs, but also to help students learn the skills that they are going to need in the future."

The dramatic change in our climate has caused many to fear for the fragile state of our planet. The Trump administration is only exacerbating the issue by rejecting the basic tenets of science. Despite this, Pasi remains optimistic about mankind's ability to offset the damage we've already done to our environment.

"The doom-and-gloom, negative thoughts about climate change aren't taking in the exponential pace at which renewables are being adopted," he says. "While at the current trajectory, we are in a very difficult spot. But if you think about this technology being adopted on an exponential curve, I think we're going to be all right." -ERIK THOMPSON

The — RENAISSANCE WOMAN

Brittany Lynch

ife comes at you fast.

When KFAI radio approached Brittany Lynch about helping to create a new morning show last year, the DJ and arts entrepreneur known around town as DJ Miss Brit thought she and co-host Barb Abney would have a healthy amount of time to map out their vision for the program. After all, Abney's background was in alt-rock, Lynch's in hip-hop and R&B. Making what Lynch calls an "arranged radio marriage" work would take some fine-tuning.

Then City Pages reported the news, and, well, things sped up. "We got such a great response, that sort of put us on the fast track to figure some things out live on the air," Lynch says. "Audiences heard us getting to know each other in the real time."

Six months into the new show, Lynch sounds thrilled with a recent overhaul to the program's structure. "Our nickname for the new format is 'Air BnB."

Miss Brit is no stranger to taking life as it comes. Coordinating her overlapping careers—radio personality, club DJ, event organizer, arts booster, business owner—

has been a continuous process of adjustment and improvisation. But as with the morning show, she's finally found the right rhythm, a way to promote music, help artists develop their business sense, and spread social consciousness.

For instance, Miss Brit hosts a monthly event at Icehouse, which she calls "a night of performance art dedicated to healing.

"I wanted to create a space where we could be vulnerable, where we could talk about mental health, a place where people could be completely open, completely vulnerable," she says.

Her sense that there's a need for such nurturing is rooted in her past. Lynch was born in St. Paul. After her mother left Lynch's abusive biological father, they wound up in Naomi Family Center. Then her mom remarried and the family relocated. "It made me well-rounded, going from city to suburb, from diverse communities to where I'm the only one in my class and sometimes my school who looks like me," Lynch says. "All of it helped me to understand that there are different ways of living, and how drastic life can change."

That sense of impermanence, and an awareness that artists need to be ready



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

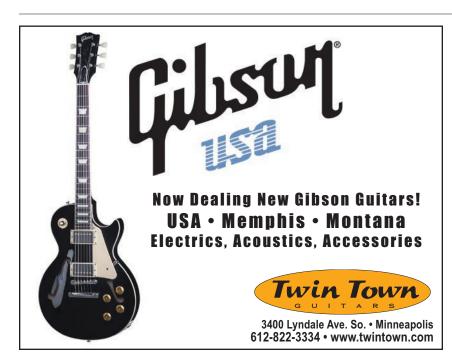
for change, also drives Lynch's company, Visions Merging, which studies infrastructure to educate creatives, corporations, and government agencies on what an arts scene needs to thrive.

"What does it mean when we lose an organization like Intermedia Arts?" she asks. "What are the funding mechanisms that need to be in place? Who owns the land? Who owns the buildings? All of those

behind-the-scenes things that artists don't talk about, they need to be in place so artists can flourish."

The trickiest part of Lynch's balancing act? Surviving both a club DJ's late nights and a morning-show host's early mornings. "Oh, man. It is a lifestyle commitment," she says. "Waking up is not the hard part—it's going to sleep on time."

—KEITH HARRIS



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irtual reality is often seen as a solitary activity enjoyed by a small group of people wealthy enough to afford the gear and software. This is not how Paige Dansinger, founder of the Better World Museum, sees the future. She seeks to foster empathy, engage with others, and share ideas.

"Our evening events allow each person the opportunity to try [virtual reality] and see their work projected," she says of her downtown City Center space. "That's one way to share this incredible technology with the general public, including people with economic challenges who may never have had access to it."

The worlds created at the Better World Museum are made for the people, by the people. For example, the Snowflake Project started as a humble snowscape. Through contributions from visitors, however, the virtual world soon became a winter wonderland, filled with snowmen, igloos, shooting stars, and snowflakes.

"When you draw a snowflake and see other snowflakesdrawn by people of all races, economic states, abilities-we connect," she says.

"There's a sense of unity and beauty and honoring of our connectedness."

Other virtual reality worlds include a train lot where people can graffiti cars, and a tropical world filled with gardens, gem-studded secret tunnels, and waterfalls. Some worlds look super realistic, while others are magical cartoon universes. To enter these domains, one simply pops on a headset and uses two handheld controllers. From there, you can add your own art,

— *The* — CREATOR WORLDS

Paige Dansinger

explore, or even meditate. The programs are surprisingly intuitive, and folks can watch people create via a large monitor.

Guests who wander the garden can learn about plants. This carries over into Dansinger's work as an artist-in-residence at the Minneapolis Athenaeum, where she's charged with getting teens interested in Minneapolis' oldest library collection, which features rare botanical drawings.

"The idea is that teens could eat these plants," she says of their urban garden program, which educates participants on Minnesota's indigenous urban flora. "They can become familiar with these plants and feel like it's relative today. I hope it will empower them."

The Better World Museum formed in response to the 2016 election. But while the organization is a reaction to America's current era of fear, Dansinger resists in a way that is unabashedly joyous.

"We do tend to make these hyper-utopian projects," she says. "I need to express things in clouds and rainbows and the hope—the faith-of a better day."

Better World isn't fighting for rainbows and sunshine alone: It's part of a coalition of 90 museums working together to ignite social activism, bringing people together through technology.

"I believe that participatory social experiences can go against isolation," she says. "I really think technology is meant to bring people together. It's how I use it. and what I believe in. I see all these wonderful potentials." -JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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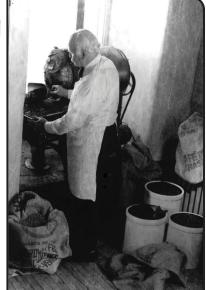
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— *The* — SCENE-SETTER

Maya Clark

des to great black-centric TV shows. Essays on being an insecure, socially awkward twentysomething. Photo shoots showcasing local models of color. When writer Maya Clark and photographer Pierre Ware launched Culture Piece Magazine in 2016, they weren't sure how successful this formula would be.

"We didn't have any money to start it," Clark says. "We were broke as hell and just trying to afford the website."

Almost two years later, the project is a full-time gig for editor-in-chief Clark. She and Ware fill the site with striking fashion photography, concert reviews, and thoughtful essays on life as a black millennial in the Twin Cities.

"It's really about keeping in mind the voices of people of color—especially young people of color," says the 21-year-old Clark. "There's not really much out there that is for us that is written by us."

Clark's column, Letters from a Carefree Black Girl, is deeply personal and honest, navigating the uncertainties, insecurities, and ambition that come with being a twentysomething trying to figure it all out.

"It's weird, because I don't like opening up to people," she confesses. "But everybody reads it; my mom reads it. I don't want people to know that stuff, but that's the one way I can get my thoughts out there in a healthy way."

Last year was Culture Piece's breakthrough season, in part because of its presence at spring Fashion Week MN. Their event, titled Melanin, showcased black designers, DJs, and models. It was such a success that, when the fall Fashion Week rolled around, Clark and her team decided to put together a party celebrating one of the most glam eras in African-American fashion: the Harlem Renaissance.

"At first I was going to say no," she admits. "I had never put on a show or event—not a birthday party, nothing. It was scary because I was only 20 at the time, and I don't really do social events. I don't even like to go out. But we pulled

If the popularity of these happenings indicates anything, it's that the spotlight needs to grow to include more black Twin Cities talent. Clark wants to help make that happen.

"I'm really trying to encourage people and give people what little resources I have to do their own events," she says. "I really don't want to be the token black person at Fashion Week. I want there to be a ton of events."

Culture Piece also took part in I Am MPLS!, an annual party showcasing local designers, artists, musicians, and filmmakers. In the coming months, Clark would like to see the site expand to include YouTube videos featuring hair tutorials and interviews with black creatives. She already has a theme for her next Fashion Week party, which returns in April: New Age Noire.

"We'll be focusing on new-age black culture," she says. "Focusing on why it's a staple, and why people think it's so rebellious. Like, how is just being us an act of rebellion?" -JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

— *The* — HUMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM

Sarah Souder Johnson

s tight-knit as the arts community can seem in the Twin Cities, it can be a lonely place, especially for those struggling with sobriety or depression. But the people behind Dissonance are there to remind you that you are not alone, and help is there if, and when, you need it.

Sarah Souder Johnson co-founded Dissonance with David Lewis at McNally Smith College of Music in 2012, while serving as the school's director of counseling. It started as an effort to connect with students who were struggling with mental health issues, and to create honest conversation about concerns that are occasionally stigmatized in the artistic community.

"Art and music and creativity in general are really universal, and they are friendly ways to talk about big issues," says Johnson, a St. Paul psychotherapist. "People are happy to go to an event where they are going to see a singer that they like. And then to hear them talk about their own story of recovery, or their parent's

mental illness, or the abuse they suffered, or their suicidal ideation, it's very, very meaningful. It leaves people more willing to talk about their own concerns and get the help that they need."

What started as a once-a-year panel and live performance event for students has blossomed into a nonprofit that hosts a series of events, with Johnson serving as chair of the Board of Directors.

In recent years, the glamorized notion of the tortured or crazy artist has begun to fade, as have the stigmas attached to addiction and mental health problems.

"Most people are relieved to talk about the truth, to tell the truth about what they are going through and what they have experienced," Johnson says. "I believe we all have an innate need to be seen and heard as we truly are. And for some people, that includes mental illness, and that includes a struggle with wellness, and that includes addiction."

Since its formation, Dissonance has brought the arts community in the Twin



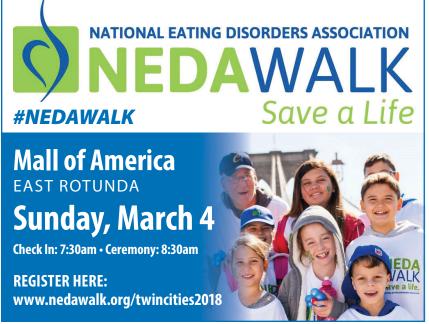
COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

Cities area closer, while fostering meaningful friendships and support systems that have only made the scene stronger.

"That is part of our goal, part of our mission—to create a healthy community, and to help people feel connected," Johnson says, "A lot of what addiction or depression does is makes us feel alone and isolated.

And being able to connect and see other relationships form and solidify and make people feel stronger together, it's really cool. I feel honored to hear people's stories, I feel honored to get to learn about how they grow and change. I believe people are very resilient, and we all have the capacity to change." - ERIK THOMPSON





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— *The* — COACH

Moose Younghans

St. Paul's East Side was the capital of Minnesota hockey. Or at least one of them. Over a century of play, the Johnson High Governors won four Minnesota championships, appeared in 22 state tournaments, and sent 80 kids to the college ranks, eight of whom became All-Americans. The grit and passion of Johnson was exemplified by its most famous alum, Herb Brooks, who would go

here was a time when

That heyday would end in the 1970s and '80s, when the East Side's sturdy blue-collar neighborhoods were decimated by factory closings and a new economy that frowned on those who worked with their hands. The East Side began to produce what remain the lowest income levels of anywhere in the Twin Cities.

on to coach the Gophers, the U.S.

Olympic team, and in the NHL.

In the meantime, Johnson welcomed a wave of immigration from Africa and Southeast Asia. Today, the school's minority population approaches 90 percent.

It's not easy to maintain a hockey team with a student body unused to the art of sailing across large sheets of ice. But coach Moose Younghans has been shepherding the Governors since 1993, maintaining the only continuous high school program in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

He's an old-school force of nature. jocular and unassuming on the outside, hyper-determined within. His is an affable, welcoming vibe, a sense that you're in the presence of good, standup people. It's easy to see why boys would follow him, and moms and dads would trust them with their children.

Younghans' life is about giving of himself. He began his coaching career in the late '70s with younger kids, routinely winning state titles despite the East Side's less than promising odds. He helped launch youth programs like the Johnson-Como Hockey Association. Even after he jumped to the high school ranks, he'd often moonlight coaching a second youth team.

The beauty of his creation can be seen on game night at Gustafson-Phalen Arena. The Governors draw full houses, a United



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

Nations rainbow of students whose origins stem from points across the globe. In between periods, the lobby is packed with well-wishing adults who seem to be part of some sprawling, extended family.

Johnson is no longer a power. With so few students who play hockey, the Governors are forced to rely on brothers piling aboard from the same families. The Hmong kids haven't shown much interest in the sport since a Ramsey County Sheriff's Department youth program was discontinued. But Younghans is happy to gush over his first Somali player, a freshman with three siblings behind him.

If Johnson can't compete with the larger, wealthier powers of the Minneapolis suburbs, it more than makes up for it with entertaining hockey. The Governors are a reflection of their coach, a rugged, old-school team than never passes up a check. What they lack in numbers and skill, they more than compensate for with fire and spirit.

Besides, says Younghans, some things are more important than wins.

"Our culture is good. Their lives are good. Sports teach them the right work ethic. Teaches them about respect and all the things that are important in life. They're flourishing." - PETE KOTZ

att Tennant's approach to addressing youth homelessness is a little less by the book, a little more by the bike.

Fifteen years ago, Tennant was an outreach worker who spent his days connecting with young people in their environment, handing out winter gear and bus tokens, introducing them to shelters and resources.

Noble work, to be sure. But Tennant nonetheless felt he was only doing half of the job.

"I got really good at connecting young people on the streets to social services, and then I was seeing these same young people get stuck there," he says. "There were no real opportunities for them to exit that system and be more independent. And I didn't want to be the social worker who sat across the desk from kids and asked them why their life was sucking so bad."

This is where Full Cycle, his nonprofit south Minneapolis bike shop, was born. It started as a free bike program, with Tennant inviting kids to repair donated bikes alongside him, building a relationship as they tightened bolts and greased chains. In this low-key, non-clinical environment, he could get to know kids whose experiences might have left them with real reasons not to trust adults. And he connected with them while resolving an additional need: providing access to transportation.

Eventually, the bike-building operation grew big enough that it needed its own space. Tennant opened Full Cycle at 35th and Chicago in 2008.

The mission has only expanded since. There's the two-phase, six-month-long paid internship, which teaches a structured mechanic curriculum and imparts professional knowledge like résumé writing. The idea is to give kids a complete set of skills-not just the know-how to work on bikes. Full Cycle's food access programming is equally robust. As he was getting his nonprofit off the ground in '08, Tennant was also busy starting the state's first youth-specific food shelf: Groveland Food for Youth. He handed off that brick-and-mortar building this year to focus on other programs, including food pantry delivery, which the shop provides (by bike, of course), and a popup food shelf.

Tennant is big on opening doors-and he opens lots of them-but there are no guarantees here. Anyone who completed the internship program can apply for a delivery job or a position with the popup. Not everyone gets one.

But Tennant does everything he can to provide youth with whatever they need. While Full Cycle isn't a drop-in center per se, it has a lounge where anyone can rest, read magazines, listen to music. Kitchen



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

— *The* — BIKE BUILDER

Matt Tennant

shelves in the shop's rear store an array of food, and the bathroom is always stocked with soap and toiletries that are available to anyone, no questions asked.

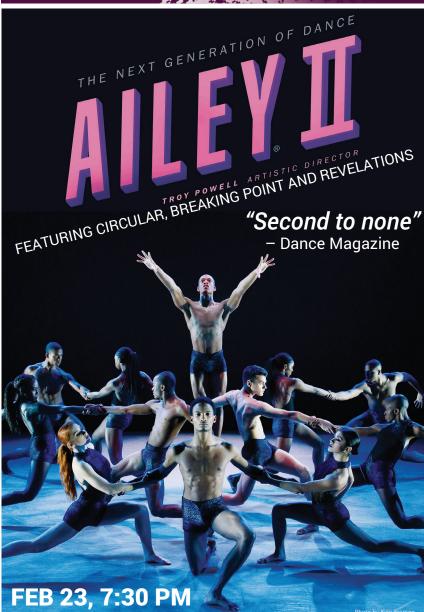
Full Cycle still offers those free bike appointments, giving away more than 200 rides every year.

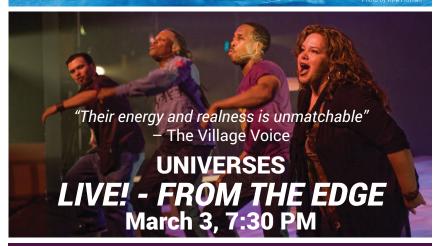
"They do exactly what I used to do

at the shelter: They build a bike, they listen to music, and they talk about what's getting in the way of true independence and stability, where they want to be as a young adult," he says. "And if they're not interested in any sort of social services, great. Then they walk out of here with a free bike." -EMILY CASSEL











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uring one soccer practice as a fifth-grader, Lizzy Crist told her coach she was bored with all the running. Could she play goalie?

She took to it right away. As the last line of defense, the goalkeeper is a de facto leader, verbally organizing and commanding teammates, then risking her limbs when she's called into action. Crist also liked the view.

"You can see the whole field from back there."

Crist would spend the next dozen years playing the position, which instills a short, selective memory in its practitioners. Mistakes will be made, goals surrendered, but dwelling on them would not help.

After graduating from Minnetonka High School, Crist followed in her sister's footsteps to Washington University in St. Louis. She majored in biomedical engineering, a field that combined her

"CANCER IS AN INTELLIGENT DISEASE, IN THE WORST WAY."

interests in math, science, and real-life application for patients in need. She loved the coursework, but her schedule—and stress level—left her overwhelmed. She told her coach she might have to quit the game

Don't make the decision yet, her coach counseled. Instead, she should take the summer and worry about neither school nor soccer.

"It was the first time someone told me I didn't have to think," says Crist. "I ended up re-finding my passion for soccer, and re-finding my passion for engineering."

Crist began assisting in cancer research, while keeping a 3.9 GPA. During her free time, she volunteered with a group that performed science experiments for patients at a children's hospital.

In 2016, Crist's team lost 1-0 to Williams College in the Division III National Championship game. The Bears made it back the next year, thanks in part to 13 shutouts by Crist. In that year's final, the Bears were tied 0-0 with Messiah after two overtimes. Washington University won on penalty kicks, and Crist was named Division III's female athlete of the year.

Crist returned home to work toward a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where she's landed on a research team that uses 3D modeling. Crist has designed an experiment to observe how cells move within a tumor—and why some leave for



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

The — SAVER

Lizzy Crist

other parts of the body, that moment called "metastasis," which many families now know as a virtual death sentence.

"There's no reason [cancer] goes after certain people," Crist says. "There's so much unknown. It's an intelligent disease, in the worst way."

Someday, Crist would like to run a

research team of her own, either as a college professor or for a private company.

"I think of the people in the lab as my team," Crist says. "Playing soccer taught me you don't have to be competing against people. You can be pushing them and competing with them in a way that raises the level of everyone around you."—MIKE MULLEN



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- The PEACEKEEPER

Clarence Castile

larence Castile loves his hometown of St. Paul. Dreaming of how best to serve his city, he'd picture himself wearing the baby blue of the St. Paul Police Department as a volunteer reserve officer so the neighborhood kids could see an honorable man they needn't fear.

But when his sister's son Philando was shot and killed during a famously contentious traffic stop by a St. Anthony police officer in 2016, Castile was hot. It seemed to many that Philando had done everything he could to cooperate—speaking respectfully, voluntarily disclosing his possession of a handgun he was permitted to carry. Clarence thought the officer reacted out of irrational fear, perhaps a casualty of insufficient training.

Within two weeks, he became a regular fixture at the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, the state's police licensing body, learning about use of force, and trying to diagnose flaws in a system he hoped could be rehabilitated.

"If people understand how that use-offorce continuum works, how to de-escalate situations, they learn about treating cops with dignity and respect, we won't need guns and tasers and pepper spray," Castile says. "So my job is to learn these phrases and catch terms, implicit, explicit bias, and explain this to community people so they can use it to keep themselves safe. Cops will be safe, citizens be safe. Everybody's safe."

The governor would later recognize Castile's thirst to be a part of the solution by appointing him to that board. Contrary to the expectation that he might take an adversarial role, his desire to contribute to law enforcement only grew.

After months of field training and study, Castile has become a St. Paul reserve officer. He drops in on businesses that are frequently burglarized, looks for fresh tracks around the homes of people who are out of town, and aids crowd control at parades, protests, and special events like Rondo Days. While on night patrol, he'll drive down the alleys of friends and family, shining his light, deterring crime.

Never has he received any backlash for the line he walks, Castile says—not from police who disagree with his conviction that officers who make mistakes should fall on their swords and accept responsibility, nor from activists who oppose his continued trust in law enforcement. Not that it would matter, he says.

"Tm not afraid of people. We walk, we talk, we believe, we die. I feel sorry for somebody who keeps that anger and hurt inside, those negative feelings. I've talked to my sister plenty of times. I say we're gonna take this negative energy and we're gonna turn it into something positive." —SUSAN DU

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t is his real name.

Tootie Martin, christened after a nickname his father was given as a child, was raised in Panama City, Florida. That's not far from "The Peanut Capital of the World," Dothan, Alabama, and near a large peanut butter factory in Enterprise, Alabama. "You could smell peanuts in the air all the time," he says.

Though he spent much of his youth with his mother in a housing project in Panama City, he lived in Enterprise when he was eight with his great aunt, adjacent to a farm. "We would literally go across the street, pull the peanuts up from the soil, and drag them back to the house," he says.

A fortuitous turn of events yanked him from that native soil and planted him in St. Paul. In 2000, Tootie's close friend was heading to Concordia University. With some help from that family, Tootie was offered a chance to attend as well. He's now the director of development for the school.

But when you eat, sleep, and breathe peanuts from a young age, that taste of home never leaves you. In Minnesota, Tootie couldn't find any boiled peanuts that weren't from a can. "I thought, 'Either Minnesotans don't like boiled peanuts, or they haven't been exposed to them."

It was the latter, as it turns out. So Tootie took matters into his own hands.

"I started a business that was just me, a tent, and a pot," he says. "I was going around the farmers market saying, 'Bald peanuts! Bald peanuts here!' And people were looking at me like, 'What are bald peanuts?'

"So I had to learn how to pronounce boiled," he laughs. "Eventually I did."

Tootie sports a smile so big you might think you've walked in just after the punch line of a really great joke. But that's just his smile, and the only joke is on those of us who aren't as blissful as he is, dressed in all black save for his bright yellow bowtie, selling boiled and fried peanuts at the Midtown Farmers Market. He also has a commercial kitchen in Lonsdale, Minnesota, and takes orders on tootiespeanuts.com.

"The next step for me would be to get into the breweries and distilleries, have a concessions trailer, and my ultimate goal is the Minnesota State Fair," he says.

Yet even that wouldn't be the last stop for Tootie. He wants to expand to beyond a man, a pot, and a tent, to have a staff of peanut devotees—and he wants to employ convicted felons.

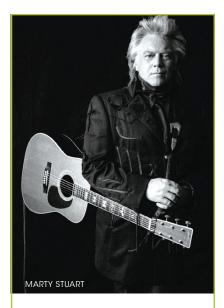
"I have seen it in my own community growing up in Panama City, Florida, the effects of men and women coming back after being incarcerated and they can't find stable employment. That to me is a travesty."

More than a stable job, Tootie hopes to offer an inspiring story: "I want them to think, 'If this guy can have a business doing peanuts, then I can use the gifts that I have.' I want that to be the model for Tootie's Peanuts." —HANNAH SAYLE

— The — PEANUT MAN

Tootie Martin





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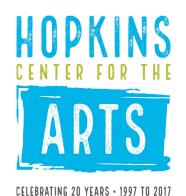
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ike so many Minnesotans, Amy and Dave Freeman fell in love with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) as kids.

For Dave, who grew up in the Chicago suburbs, northern Minnesota vacations began in junior high and blossomed into seasonal jobs during high school and college. For Amy, who grew up in St. Paul, the BWCA baptism happened at age 13.

"I was totally hooked after that," Amy

So hooked, in fact, that the husbandand-wife explorer team spent 366 straight days in the BWCA from 2015 to 2016, an epic trip they describe as "witness activism." Their goal? To raise awareness of the dangers proposed copper-nickel mines pose for the fragile, intricately connected waterways in and around the Boundary Waters.

The Freemans-seasoned worldwide explorers who were named National Geographic's 2014 Adventurers of the Year-used social media to communicate the vulnerable majesty of their surroundings. They blasted off daily posts as they paddled, portaged, and dogsledded more than 2,000 miles across 500 bodies of water.

"We learned that the Boundary Waters is special not just to people here in Minnesota, but to people all over the country," says Dave. "And that journey really inspired us to want to do more."

Last fall the Freemans published A Year in the Wilderness, a lively account of their marathon BWCA trek and the activism that fueled it. In April, they'll embark on

The — WILDERNESS **PROTECTORS**

Amy and Dave Freeman

a book tour, Freeman-style: a bike trip to Washington, D.C., with events along the way. They'll be towing a canoe scribbled with the signatures of supporters of Save the Boundary Waters, an Ely advocacy

Mining is a white-hot issue in the Northland. Tensions elevated even higher last December, when the Trump administration reversed an Obama-era order that $restricted\ mining\ leases\ near\ the\ BWCA.$

"The science and data show copper mining near the Boundary Waters would not only have environmental impacts, but significant economic impacts as well," Dave says, citing the potential for cleanup costs and lost tourism revenue.

But the neighborly spirit of Ely remains intact, he reports.

"We feel really lucky that when we go to the grocery store, or run into people on the street, we don't necessarily agree, but

everybody wants the same things: jobs, steady income, clean environment," Dave says.

The Freemans split their time between Ely and Grand Marais, having met in the latter town in 2005. At the time, Amy was attending grad school and leading Lake Superior kayaking trips, while Dave was teaching via his nonprofit education website, Wilderness Classroom. These days, the couple pay the bills by leading BWCA expeditions in the summer and dogsledding adventures in the winter, as well as through public speaking.

"We're better when we're out in the wilderness," Dave says, "Our relationship is better-about half our married life has been spent in a tent."

Life in the woods presents obvious challenges, they both admit, but facing them together only tightens their bond. -JAY BOLLER

— The — ETHICIST in CHIEF

Richard Painter

ichard Painter's career sounds like the setup for a joke: What's the difference between a Republican, a lawyer, and an ethicist?

You'll have to ask someone else. Painter takes this stuff seriously. Few Americans know it better.

After graduating from Harvard, then Yale law school, Painter practiced corporate law in New York and Connecticut. He moved into education, first at the University of Oregon, then the University of Illinois, and published theories that reimagined how lawyers should think of the profession. In one widely cited paper, Painter put forth the idea of "moral interdependence," encouraging attorneys to think of themselves as representing not just a CEO, but also "shareholders, lenders, employees, and the community."

In 2005, he took a job as chief ethics attorney in George W. Bush's White House, where he counseled appointees and staff on divesting business ties to avoid conflicts of interest. Painter can't recall an instance when they didn't take his advice. Though "there were a few situations, like with the [2006] firing of U.S. Attorneys, where I wish somebody had come to me before I had to read about it in the New York Times," he says.

In 2007, Painter left to teach the law again, this time at the University of Minnesota, where his wife became a professor

of music history. It was from this remove that Painter observed, starting in late 2015, the disturbing reappearance of a figure from his early career.

"Donald Trump's reputation in the business community was not a good one," he says.

Painter, a lifelong "moderate Republican," supported Jeb Bush, then Marco Rubio, then John Kasich, and finally Hillary Clinton. In fall 2016, Painter and the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) prepared to challenge the corporate and nonprofit ties of a Clinton presidency.

Instead, America got President Donald Trump. And Richard Painter got to work. CREW sued Trump almost immediately, arguing his international hotel business violates the Constitution's clause against "emoluments," a fancy word for a simple concept.

"It just means profits and benefits. The Founders did not want people holding United States government positions and making profits off dealings with foreign governments."

Hearing Painter's Philadelphia accent, rolling cadence, and the firmness in his voice, one is convinced he just got off a conference call with the Founders themselves.

That lawsuit was dismissed in December—CREW says it will appeal—with a judge ruling that policing Trump's entanglements is the responsibility of Congress. Painter



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

is pressing his case there, too. He's told Minnesota Congressmen Erik Paulsen and Tom Emmer to their faces that Congress owes Americans more oversight of Trump.

Painter has also presented the evidence to the public, appearing frequently on CNN, MSNBC, and other networks. As a guest, he discusses professional ethics, but also appeals to basic morality. After Trump's defense of white supremacists at the Char-

lottesville rally, an impassioned Painter demanded the president remove the "neofascists in his White House immediately," or face impeachment.

So, what is the difference between a Republican, a lawyer, and an ethicist? In Richard Painter's case, there isn't one. That's why he should scare Donald Trump about as much as Trump scares the rest of us.

—MIKE MULLEN



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COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

— The — NEWSPAPERMAN

Jack Jackman

unning the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder newspaper the state's oldest black-owned business—wasn't Wallace "Jack" Jackman's first rodeo. Born in Des Moines, Jackman moved to Minneapolis with his mother at age 15. He spent his teenage years "hoopin' and hollering, [causing his] share of hell" while attending Central High School, then worked as a cook, truck driver, welder, and bouncer.

"I'd like to have been a brain surgeon," the endearingly gruff 73-year-old wisecracks.

Eventually, the family business called.
Wallace's mother, Launa, married Twin
Cities civil rights pioneer Cecil Newman in
1962. In 1934, Newman—a trusted adviser

to Vice President Hubert Humphrey—launched the papers that merged into the Spokesman-Recorder, and he oversaw them until his death in 1976.

Jackman assisted his mother for years as she captained the papers. Along with his sister, Norma Jean Williams, he'd later hold the role of co-publisher for two decades. Jackman purchased the Spokesman-Recorder's first computer ("all it would do is replace white out") and its first suite of software ("more holes in it than Swiss cheese"). That initial \$10,000 investment wasn't a money-maker, Jackman says, though it proved extremely educational.

"He really transformed the building and the paper, and brought us into the 21st century," says Tracey Williams-Dillard, the Spokesman-Recorder's current publisher, of her "grumpy, loving" uncle. "It changed the whole way we do business."

Though the Spokesman-Recorder caters to a largely black readership, Jackman emphasized diversity in his hires, if only "to show the world it could be done." Making a buck was never easy, he says, but the historic Minneapolis newsroom at 3744 Fourth Ave. S. fills an important role, covering topics and issues often overlooked by larger news outlets.

"Newspapers was hard work, man," he says. "We've struggled all them years, [but] only the strong survive—the black community needed the information."

In the '90s, Jackman created Minnesota Blackpages, a profitable listing service for minority businesses he ran for more than a decade. But the phonebook business, just like the newspaper one, would prove financially incompatible with the internet.

In 2011, Jackman joined a seven-member delegation of local politicians and firefighters that traveled to Kenya for two weeks. The crew of Minnesotans donated a firetruck, shared expertise, and bonded with the residents of Eldoret, Minneapolis' sister city. "We have to overcome and make that journey," Jackman told the Spokesman-Recorder at the time, imploring fellow African Americans make the unforgettable journey to Africa.

Asked why he loves the Twin Cities, Jackman deadpans: "You ever been to Des Moines?" This is where he enjoyed 52 years of marriage to his late wife, Lynda. It's where they raised four children, 25 grandchildren, and lots of dogs. It's where he still sees problems ("racism is everywhere, and it's ugly"), and where he practices the solution.

"I treat everybody with respect," Jackman says. "And that's how I want to be treated." – JAY BOLLER

ot every politician can brag that they voted themselves out of office.

Joe Radinovich can. In 2012, the fresh-faced Crosby, Minnesota native was elected as a Democrat to represent his conservative home district, about two hours north of the Twin Cities, in the state Legislature.

"I was 27, I was a legislator, and I felt pretty good about myself," he says. "I was on *Almanac*, looking good and talking smart, and I got done with the show and my dad called me. He said, 'You're getting really good at this politics thing. You made it through that whole interview without saying yes or no to anything."

Joe laughs, but his father's ribbing would soon prove a somber moral compass—one that would stop Joe's legislative career in its tracks.

Before the U.S. Supreme Court settled the question in 2015, the battle over gay

"NOBODY SHOULD EVER FEEL AFRAID TO COME BACK HOME."

marriage roiled in the states. The question of legalizing gay marriage was a nobrainer for most metro politicians, but for Democrats elected in more conservative rural districts, like Radinovich, a vote in favor of gay marriage could cost them dearly in the 2014 election.

Joe knew his personal beliefs on the matter. He was still haunted by a 2011 spate of suicides by gay students in the Anoka school district. A close family member had also attempted suicide while he was in high school.

"I've got a lot of personal experience with depression, and in my family suicide and depression have been something we've had to deal with," he says. "One of the scariest thoughts in the world is the pain someone feels right before they get to that point. If you have the opportunity to change something like this and you don't, then you're complicit."

But it was the phone call from his father that cinched it. Joe's dad told him about his best friend from high school, "the nicest guy you'd ever meet," who one day just left town and didn't come back. "A few years later, we found out he had died," Joe says his father told him. "He died of HIV/AIDS in the early '80s."

Joe chokes up as he gets to the next part of the story. "He never felt comfortable coming back to town because he



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

— The — POLITICIAN with a HEART

Joe Radinovich

was afraid of what people would think. Nobody should ever feel afraid to come back home."

It's a road Radinovich had to walk himself. After his vote to legalize gay marriage, he had doors slammed in his face and angry constituents yelling at him. He lost his seat in the 2014 election.

"My brother Brandon said, You gotta come back up here and walk tall. Be proud

of who you are."

So he did. Then he resumed his life in politics. In 2016, he managed U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan's successful re-election bid. In 2017, he led Jacob Frey's mayoral campaign to victory. Now he's clinched a position as Frey's chief of staff.

The newly minted city boy still talks of his love of Crosby, how he wants to bridge the gap between rural Minnesota and the metro area. "People's basic concerns are almost always the same, whether you're living in Cuyuna, Minnesota or north Minneapolis: Am I safe? Does my family have enough to eat? Can I afford the things that I need to live? Will I have opportunity and will the people I care about have opportunity?"

And he still goes home on weekends. —HANNAH SAYLE

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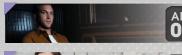
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LOTUS





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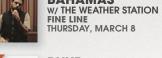


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— The — REPORTER

Chris Serres

he tales came tumbling in from across the state, details horrific. Hundreds of elderly Minnesotans were being beaten, molested, and stolen from at assisted living centers.

Their complaints would land at the state's Office of Health Facility Complaints, a dysfunctional agency both underfunded and overwhelmed. Thousands went uninvestigated, never relayed to county prosecutors. The files piled high in unattended stacks. Some were simply dumped unread into recycling bins. Crimes against Minnesota's elderly were being treated with no more concern than Comcast treats complaints about its cable service.

Then came Star Tribune reporter Chris Serres. Two years ago, he began noticing a rise in abuse complaints at senior facilities, a tenderly regulated industry increasingly under the control of large corporations, which bring with them an ethic of low staffing and high profits.

Serres spent months meeting with families from across Minnesota, listening to "very serious incidents of criminality—rape, very serious beatings, and the like." When they complained to the state, they would hear nothing for weeks, months, if at all.

"It's very difficult for people to bear witness to their suffering," Serres says.

"People would break down and get really emotional when they described what happened to their loved ones."

The result was a remarkable five-part series the Star Tribune ran in November. It found that the state hadn't bothered to investigate a stunning 2,300 claims of abuse.

To its credit, Minnesota acted swiftly. A new health commissioner was named. A panel composed of senior advocates and family members issued a host of recommendations to improve safety, ranging from tougher sentences for abusers to barring assisted living centers from capriciously evicting those who complain. Legislators from both parties are promising immediate remedies.

For Serres, the Pulitzer-worthy series was a triumph of journalism at its best—illuminating the suffering of those without power, while forcing those with it to come to their aid. Though he would never frame it that way. "I'll just say, selfishly, that it's reassuring there's actual real change happening."

Serres is a thoughtful, introspective man, the antithesis of the bombast and self-aggrandizement that's come to characterize media. He's a former business reporter and labor organizer, a son of rural Oregon whose seven brothers and sisters grew up to be environmental activists. If



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMON

anything, he's simply grateful he gets to do this work.

Had his series appeared somewhere in Alabama, he says, it might not have made a ripple, buried under apathy and a government controlled almost solely by business interests. But Minnesota still possesses a "civil society," he notes. "There's a great deal of good will here. You can actually shame people into doing the right thing. I don't know if you can say that in most parts of the country anymore."

Which perhaps is why he's willing to share a bit of shame of his own. After the series ran, readers pelted him with a recurring criticism: Yes, you went after the state, but you seemed to give the industry a pass.

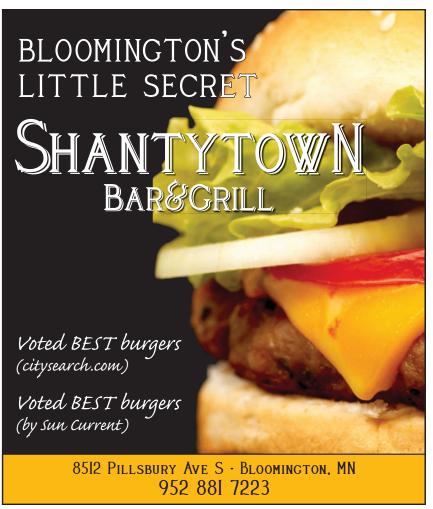
It's a fair shot, says Serres. One of the media's great faults is its unwillingness to investigate corporations with the same zeal it does the government, he concedes.

So Serres is still on the story. The industry that allowed all this to happen now looms much larger in his sightlines. —PETE KOTZ













SWEET ON YOU

Turn to these Twin Cities chocolate artisans for inventive bonbons and bars BY STACY BROOKS

alentine's Day. It's a divisive holiday. Some see it as a joyful celebration of love, while for others, it's a crass consumer exercise in sappy

But whether you're looking forward to February 14 as the most romantic day of the year or dreading the reminder of your single status, we can all agree on one thing: Any excuse to eat chocolate is a good one. This Valentine's Day, treat your loved ones (or yourself) to something sweet from one (or all) of these Twin Cities artisan chocolatiers.

K'ul Chocolate

Peter Kelsey was a cyclist on a mission: to create an energy bar that actually tastes good. While chocolate certainly fit the "tastes good" criteria, he initially thought it wouldn't be a healthy ingredient-after all, it's candy, right? But upon further research, he learned that chocolate with a 70 percent or higher cacao concentration is actually a low glycemic food, which means eating dark chocolate can give you sustained energy without the sugar rush.

As a scratch chef and baker with decades of experience, Kelsey didn't like the idea of buying someone else's chocolate. So he decided to dive in headfirst, attending trade shows, networking, training, and ultimately traveling through Central and South America to source the beans for his farm-to-bar chocolate, which takes its name from the Mayan word for energy.

For customers accustomed to paying a dollar for a Hershey's bar, K'ul Chocolate's price tag may register some sticker shock. But Kelsey notes that chocolate is similar to coffee: When you spend more money, you're getting better beans. Most commercial brands-including the high-end ones-include vanilla to mask the flavor of inferior beans. "When people try K'ul, it's like they're tasting chocolate for the

first time-they're so used to vanilla-laced chocolate," Kelsey says. And it's not just better beans. Artisan chocolate consumers are also getting a higher-caliber roast. Each batch of cocoa requires a different treatment to coax out the best possible flavor, and this is where a skilled chocolate maker adds value.

Kelsey's quest for a tastier energy bar inspired K'ul's "Superfood" line of chocolate, which is loaded with ingredients like turmeric, maca, and evaporated coconut water. We enjoyed the Golden Spice bar (\$24.99 for a box of eight), which pairs 70 percent dark chocolate with turmeric, ginger, ginseng, and golden berries for a nuanced combination of sweet and savory.

K'ul's line also includes dark chocolate with more familiar flavors like vanilla, Marcona almond, and espresso, plus a handful of single-origin bars made solely with



beans from a specific plantation. For the ultimate gift, try the "No Reserve" bars in ultra-luxe packaging. They feature elegant flavor combinations like pistachio and rose petals, hazelnut and orange peel, and soylé leve—a dark milk chocolate bar inspired by Haitian breakfast hot chocolate and flavored with star anise and cinnamon.

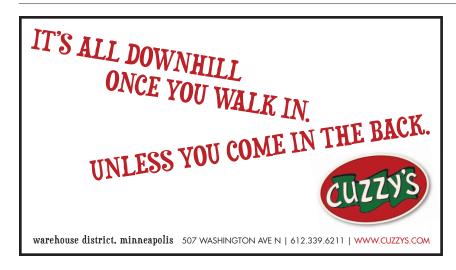
Find K'ul Chocolate at the company's retail location, online, and at local co-ops, Lunds & Byerly's, Whole Foods, Kowalski's, Surdyk's, and the Herbivorous Butcher— K'ul's dark chocolate bars are vegan, 2211 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-344-4300

Chocolat Celeste

Founder and chocolatier Mary Leonard views her chocolate making as creating a gift that will leave the recipient grateful. Accordingly, Chocolat Celeste specializes in exquisite bonbons and truffles that are crafted to be both a visual and culinary experience. "This is not everyday chocolate," says Leonard.

Her chocolate starts with high-quality ingredients: local, fresh butter from Hope Creamery; cream from a sustainable dairy that doesn't use rBGH (a bovine growth hormone); and chocolate sourced from sustainable plantations. Since Chocolat Celeste's creations are free of palm oil and extenders like high fructose corn syrup, consumers get more chocolate for their money.

The first thing you'll notice when you bite into a Chocolat Celeste bonbon is the intensity of flavor, both of the ganache filling and the surrounding shell. Leonard explains that this is because she uses high-cacaopercentage chocolate made with good beans and proper processing. The flavor lingers, in contrast to mass-market chocolate's quick hit of sweetness that leaves you wanting







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We're partial to the Caremelia bonbon (\$7 for two). The milk chocolate ganache filling is infused with caramel, so it features a rich caramel flavor without the stick-to-yourteeth mess. Other truffle and bonbon flavors include pear cognac, raspberry, champagne, Irish cream, ginger citrus, and lemon.

The difference between Chocolat Celeste truffles and bonbons is the shape: Truffles are round, while bonbons are square. Both have ganache fillings, but the bonbons' flat tops mean that they can be decorated with tiny snowflakes, flowers, and even footballs. Each design is meticulously applied by hand using coconut oil transfer sheets.

Chocolat Celeste's truffles and bonbons are available at the boutique and website. (Since the days before Valentine's Day are among the boutique's busiest, shop early to avoid the lines.) 652 Transfer Rd., Ste. 16A, St. Paul; 651-644-3823

Mademoiselle Miel

"Think about the finest things in the world, like the most expensive diamonds and the most luxurious vehicles—they're out of reach for the vast majority of us. However, many of us can afford the finest chocolate," Mademoiselle Miel owner and chocolatier Susan Brown points out.

Her bean-to-bar chocolate, for example, is made with high-quality cacao sweetened with organic Wisconsin maple sugar. Bonbons are handcrafted and are filled with raw honey harvested from hives on the rooftop of the kitchen and showroom.

The "Mademoiselle Miel" moniker is a nod to Brown's honey-filled bonbons ("miel" is the French word for honey) and an homage to French culture. "Most people in the U.S. perceive there to be a divide between health food and indulgent food, without a bridge between them," explains Brown. "French food culture has that bridge—while food is natural and there is a focus on terroir and locally produced foods, the food is also beautiful and indulgent."

In addition to the honey bonbons decorated with edible gold leaf, there are seasonal collections with carefully curated flavors and embellishments. The current "Opening Collection" features rose, wild orange juniper, and cayenne caramel bonbons. Other offerings include smoked honey bonbons with scotch, maple sugar-sweetened white and dark chocolate bars, and honey hot cocoa bombs that can be added to a warm cup of milk for an indulgent cup of cocoa.

Mademoiselle Miel's chocolates can be purchased at the showroom and from the website (\$3.50 each), or from local retailers including Bibelot, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Surdyk's, and Golden Fig. 342 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul; 651-226-4703



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FRIDAY Laure Prouvost is at the Walker P. 39

SATURDAY Queer party Daddy heads to First Ave P. 42

TUESDAY Galentine's Day at Sisyphus P. 43



COURTESY OF THEATRE LATTE DA

WEDNESDAY 2.7

THEATER ASSASSINS

THE RITZ THEATER

With recent productions including *Ragtime* and an immigration-themed

Man of La Mancha, Theatre Latté Da is accustomed to bringing national politics to the musical stage. Assassins, though, is a little more direct. Stephen Sondheim's 1990 musical explores the stories, and the psyches, of men who have killed (or attempted to

peanuts and carnival games. The carnival is a big part of the commentary on the piece, and I would love the audience to feel like they aren't just observers. It's impossible in 2018 to think you're not part of this carnival." 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. 345 13th

Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-339-3003. Through March 18 – JAY GABLER

COMEDY JIMMY SHUBERT

kill) American

presidents: John

Harvey Oswald,

and others. "At the core of the

piece," explains

director Peter

Rothstein, "is

what happens

what happens

when people

when people feel

disenfranchised,

think they've been

promised some

idea of America

and that fails

them." This is

and Rothstein

sure we can't

keep ourselves

at a safe remove.

The show opens

in a shooting

the entire Ritz

Theater stage is

going to become

a midway-with

participate. "The

the audience

theater opens

an hour before the performance

starts," explains

Rothstein. "The

carnival, the bar

actors are all

working the

is onstage; it's

popcorn and

invited to

gallery, and

is going to make

charged material,

Wilkes Booth, Lee

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY Jimmy Shubert thinks that sometimes we don't appreciate how good we have it. "I was watching this show about conjoined twins," he tells an audience. "I felt bad for them. You see that and it puts your bullshit in perspective." He elaborates. "You take things for granted being one person. Can you imagine if someone was connected to you?... I love my brothers, but to have to share a kidney, a spleen, and a liver with one of them? Two Irish guys, one liver; that would never work out." Shubert is a veteran comic, whose career goes back to the glory days of the Comedy Store in L.A. During his time there, he wrote jokes for comics such as Yakov Smirnoff, Jimmy Walker, and Louie Anderson, while also building his own act. Sam Kinison was so impressed with Shubert that he took him on the road as feature. Today, Shubert headlines clubs and theaters across the country. 16+. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$48.95. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. Through Sunday -P.F. WILSON

THEATER MAGIC 8 BALL

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL

Theresa Madaus is back at the Bryant-Lake Bowl for the second-annual Magic 8 Ball, an evening of dance, drag, and glittery audacity. Local performers Paige Collette, Julia Davidson, Jeffry Lusiak (aka PussPuss), and Megan Mayer will join Madaus for an evening of no-holds-barred extravagance. Presented by Lipsync Lesbian, the show will also include a little tidbit from Madaus' reunited dance group, Mad King Thomas. Some of the members have moved to other



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

cities, so we don't get to see their awesomeness as frequently here in the Twin Cities these days. Expect the unexpected with a mashup of high and low art. 7 p.m. \$10-\$16 sliding scale. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737. —SHEILA REGAN

COMEDY

JACKIE KASHIAN

ACME COMEDY CO.

Though she's from Milwaukee originally, and now lives in Los Angeles, Jackie Kashian considers the Acme Comedy Co. to be her home club because that's where she got her start. Recently, she was at a club in a city where one would think the audiences would be very savvy about comedy: New York. Well, Long Island specifically. "The room was a little too well lit," she says. "At the late show Saturday there was a couple making out so hard, she was in his lap." Kashian, who had a full view, addressed them. "Guys, you genuinely have to stop, because I'm up here trying to think. You either have to leave, or we can stop the show and watch you guys. That might be worth \$17." Kashian has appeared several times on Conan, and still hosts her long-running and popular podcast *The* Dork Forest, on which she interviews the famous and not-at-all famous about a specific hobby or interest. She also co-hosts The Jackie and Laurie Show, a podcast about standup comedy from a woman's perspective, with fellow comic Laurie Kilmartin. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Through Saturday -P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 2.8

FILM

MICROCINEMA #1: Relatable side eye

HE WHITE PAGE

In the internet era, no meme is as ubiquitous as the reaction gif. When typed-out words can easily be misconstrued as earnest, the side-eye, hell-no, and head-shaking gifs let people know you're silently disapproving of them from afar. This Thursday, Altered Esthetics and the White Page gallery are teaming up for a short film series featuring meme-able short videos full of side eyes, charismatic glances, head tilting, and more. You can contribute to the fun as well; send vour short film to aefilmfest@gmail. com. 7:30 p.m. Free. 3400 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis. - JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FRIDAY 2.9

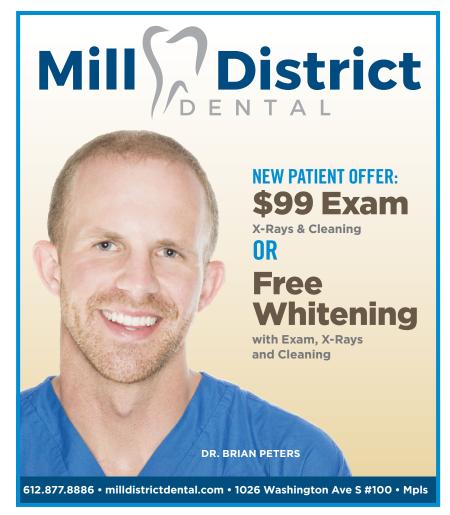
PERFORMANCE

THEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU

WALKER ART CENTER

To conclude her exhibition "Laure Prouvost: They Are Waiting for You," the French-born conceptual artist presents a world-premiere performance in collaboration with artist Sam Belinfante and choreographer Pierre Droulers. It's also her first major production for the stage, which will include film, movement, and a score performed live by local and New York musicians. Prouvost has made several films in the past in which she plays with conventional narrative and communication modalities by distorting sound, sight, and meaning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41 ▶







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PETRONELLA J. YTSMA

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

with wit. Her artwork does something similar. By interweaving movement, sound, found objects, painting, fiction, and fact, she challenges and transforms expected meanings into a restless discourse about the nature of language and understanding in a fractured yet increasingly interconnected world. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600.

Through Saturday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

COMEDY CHRIS KATTAN

NEW HOPE CINEMA GRILL

If you were alive in the '90s, chances are vou've done an impression of Chris Kattan. Maybe not of the actor himself, but of one of his iconic characters from Saturday Night Live: Mango, Mr. Peepers, the Butabi Brothers from Night at the Roxbury (the one with Will Ferrell where they head-bopped to "What Is Love"). This week, Kattan is taking on the role of standup comedian when he stops by the New Hope Cinema Grill for two nights. Since his time on SNL, Kattan has consistently appeared on the small screen, with recent roles in the Adam Sandler Netflix western The Ridiculous 6, as well as several seasons on the ABC sitcom The Middle. Last year, Kattan was back in the spotlight as a contestant on Dancing with the Stars, showing the world that his dance moves aren't limited to head-bops. While he's more known for his sketch and improv skills, Kattan has reinvented himself as a standup

these past few years, sharing anecdotes from his career, giving longtime fans a look behind the curtain at some of his most famous onscreen moments, and connecting with new generations of fans who have found his sketches and films online. This is your chance to get that 2001 VHS of Corky Romano autographed by Corky himself. 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$25-\$35. 2749 Winnetka Ave. N., New Hope; 763-417-0017.

Through Saturday —PATRICK STRAIT

THEATER

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

With its swashbuckling humor centered on a farcical romance, The Pirates of *Penzance* is one of the most enduring operettas of famed collaborators Gilbert and Sullivan. This clever adaptation by Doug Scholz-Carlsen presents the hijinks in a rollicking new context. Framing the original tale as a storywithin-a-story, Scholz-Carlsen has incorporated Gilbert and Sullivan as characters aboard a steamship on a New York-bound passage to premiere the titular work. Inspired by the reallife 1879 journey (Pirates being the sole Gilbert and Sullivan work to receive its worldwide debut in the United States), Scholz-Carlsen amplifies the humor with a twist in which the new operetta's hotly anticipated book and score have been mistakenly left behind. Frantic to save the show, the duo resort to using whatever resources are at their disposal (including spontaneously drafted shipmates) to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 ▶



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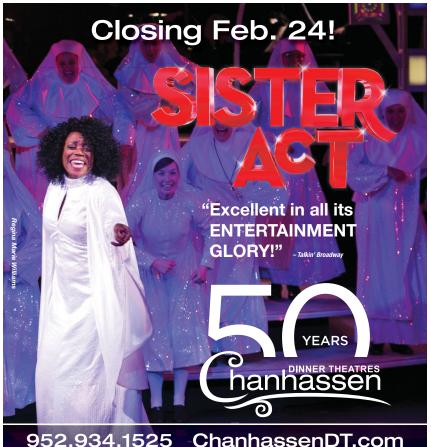
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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

recreate the production. The upheaval of the makeshift show allows for a comic chaos perfectly aligned to the irreverent sensibilities of the source material. This production features an acclaimed cast, headlined by Bradlev Greenwald and Christina Baldwin. The show is in previews through February 15. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, plus Saturday March 3 and March 24, \$25-\$60, 20 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul: 651-291-7005. Through March 25 - BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 2.10

DADDY: QUEER VARIETY SHOW AND DANCE NIGHT

FIRST AVENUE

When Daddy takes over Icehouse, tickets typically sell out fast. The LGBTQ cabaret will be able to accomodate a few more friendly freaks at First Avenue. Daddy is a versatile party, filled with dance-floor fun, burlesque, drag, live music, and performance art all in one raunchy, sex-positive evening. Consent and respect are important to the founding members, musician Brent Pennington and Fist You podcaster Archie Bongiovanni, making it even sexier for queer communities where safety is always a concern. Tonight will feature sets from Nick Jordan, Symone Smash It, DJ KEEZY, Marcel Michelle Mobama, Thunder Thighs Latex, and more. Daddy also raises money for local queer nonprofits, making this a feel-good show in more ways than one. 18+. 9 p.m. \$10/\$12.701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. **–JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/GALLERY PAO HOUA HER: MY GRANDFATHER TURNED INTO A TIGER

MIDWAY CONTEMPORARY ART

Pao Houa Her takes on myth and memory in a new exhibition at Midway Contemporary Art. In an Instagram post, the artist describes a family legend in which her grandfather turned into a tiger after he died during the Vietnam War. He frightened the other villagers, so his wife asked him to leave. Using that story as a starting point, Her's exhibition demonstrates her understated sense of humor and knack for playing with the unexpected. A Hmong artist who immigrated to the United States from Laos, Her is a wonderful portrait photographer, capturing the subtleties of her subjects' characters, infusing each image with her provocative, inventive way of seeing the world. This show is a must-see. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, February 10. 527 Second Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-605-4504.

Through April 7 - SHEILA REGAN

ART/GALLERY PORTRAITS: NEW WORKS BY JOE SINNESS

SOO VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Artist Joe Sinness honors the diverse LGBTQ players of the Twin Cities

Goodtime Softball League in this series of colored-pencil portraits. The show marks the 40th season of the league, which began as a single team formed at the Saloon on May 6, 1979. That summer, they played a number of charity games, including a victorious one against the Minneapolis Police Blue Team that drew hundreds of spectators to Parade Stadium. The following year, they formed a league, adding "Goodtime" to the name as a nod to the fellowship and community of the program. For this SooVAC show. Sinness honors the league's history while featuring the athletes that make up the 36 teams and 600 players. By highlighting all the different folks from all kinds of backgrounds, Sinness illustrates their individuality and strength. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, February 10. 2909 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-2263. Through February 27 — SHEILA REGAN

SUNDAY 2.11

BARHOPPING xoxo

MODIST BREWING COMPANY

There's something special about homemade gifts, but not everyone is crafty. So consider going for the next best thing: handmade gifts. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, Minneapolis Craft Market is heading to Modist for a day of romance, beer, and slow jams. Whether you're shopping for your sweetheart, looking for a gift for your BFF, or just want an excuse to day drink and shop, you can do that here. There will be a variety of makers sharing their wares; check out stationery, gorgeous gemstone jewelry, items for dogs, and classic V-Day gifts like chocolate, rings, and flowers. Noon to 5 p.m. Free. 505 N. Third St., Minneapolis; 612-454-0258. -JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 2.13

BARHOPPING GALENTINE'S DAY

SISYPHUS BREWING

Valentine's Day is one of the most awkward and overrated holidays of the year. So consider celebrating it with your friends instead of a date. On V-Day eve, Sisyphus will be toasting to friendship, one of the most powerful bonds of love there is. In addition to beer, revelers will be able to order up waffles and bacon from an onsite food truck. Local makers like La Lunette jewelry will set up shop, should you feel the need for some retail therapy for yourself or your BFFs. Drag queens will cap off the night with a

playful game of Blingo (it's bingo but more glam). 6 to 10 p.m. Free. 712 Ontario Ave. W., Minneapolis; 612-444-8674. –JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

THE HUMANS

ORPHEUM THEATRE

By the time The Humans was honored with the 2016 Tony Award for Best Play, Stephen Karem's electrifying drama was already being heralded as a new American classic. Firmly rooted in the anxieties of the current age, Karem has sought to embody cultural malaise

with this study of one splintered family coming together for Thanksgiving. Though the setup might sound familiar, The Humans proves anything but predictable as the weary members of the Blake family attempt to span the vast divisions between one another. The effort is further encumbered by the cramped setting, a tiny apartment in New York's Chinatown where Brigid and her boyfriend, Richard, are hosting her family, who are visiting from Scranton, Pennsylvania. While Brigid's father and mother bring their own parental judgements, the presence of the elderly family matriarch is shadowed

by dementia. Talk of ill health and worsening finances accumulate until normalcy cannot hold the dual weight of desperation and fear pulling this family apart. Thankfully, Karem's insightful writing is robust enough to moderate the escalating tension with compassionate humor, a coping mechanism sure to resonate with anyone who has ever longed to escape an awkward family gathering. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. \$29-\$135. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. Through February 18 - BRAD RICHASON



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BEAR MAXIMUM

Our marmalade fiend returns in the perfectly charming *Paddington 2*



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

BY TONY LIBERA

hese days, it can be difficult to remember that good, kindness, and basic human decency still exist in the world. That's why it's nice to see another Paddington movie in theaters: This plucky little bear embodies an idealism that should not be forgotten, no matter how cynical the world tries to make us.

Paddington 2 finds our ursine hero (voiced by Ben Whishaw) now wholly enmeshed in the day-to-day goings-on of the Brown family and London's Windsor Gardens. Paddington brings one neighbor breakfast, helps another with his keys, studies with his garbageman pal, and basically just helps out whoever he can (despite being a bit of a klutz).

But far away in darkest Peru, his aunt Lucy's 100th birthday approaches, which gives Paddington paws (ahem) for thought: What could he get her that would be truly special? As he searches through an antique shop, Paddington finds a pop-up book of London he deems the perfect gift. The only problem is the book's exorbitant price, which leads the young bear to take on a

series of odd jobs to raise the funds. But just as Paddington saves enough money for the book, a thief steals it, and Paddington is framed for the crime.

This really only scratches the surface, and that's one of the most impressive things about Paddington 2. It's an unexpectedly dense film.

In many ways you have a straight-up, old-school kids' movie. It doesn't feel as modern or clever as a Pixar feature, by design, but it's also a masterclass in traditional storytelling. In line with the principle of Chekhov's Gun, every element of the story is necessary. From Paddington 2's onset, we're flooded with clues and plot points integral to the story's outcome, some so minute you'd hardly give them a second thought. No thread is left dangling, and that makes for an extremely satisfying narrative.

But Paddington 2 won't just appeal to screenwriting nerds. It's almost archaically tender, though never mawkish, and that makes for a pleasantness that's surprisingly resonant with children and adults alike. It's not just the gentle Paddington that sells it, though—the supporting cast is skillfully fleshed out both on the page and by a slew of talented actors.

PADDINGTON 2

directed by Paul King now playing, area theaters

Hugh Bonneville and Oscar nominee Sally Hawkins are equal parts funny and endearing as Paddington's adoptive parents. Brendan Gleeson, whose dramatic abilities are criminally under-appreciated, shows off A+ comedic chops as prison cook Knuckles McGinty. And Hugh Grant gives a performance worth a few award nods as the nefarious and/or insane Phoenix Buchanan, a faded theater star who does dog food advertisements when he's not hunting down a secret fortune.

Putting all the pieces together, Paddington 2 becomes as cohesive as it is compassionate. There's an innate sweetness here that seems to be missing from a lot of contemporary fare, and it's encouraging to know Paddington's virtuous old-timev ethos not only connects with today's moviegoer, but inspires. So says the tiny bear:

"If we are kind and polite, the world will be right."

I want to believe, Paddington. I want to believe.



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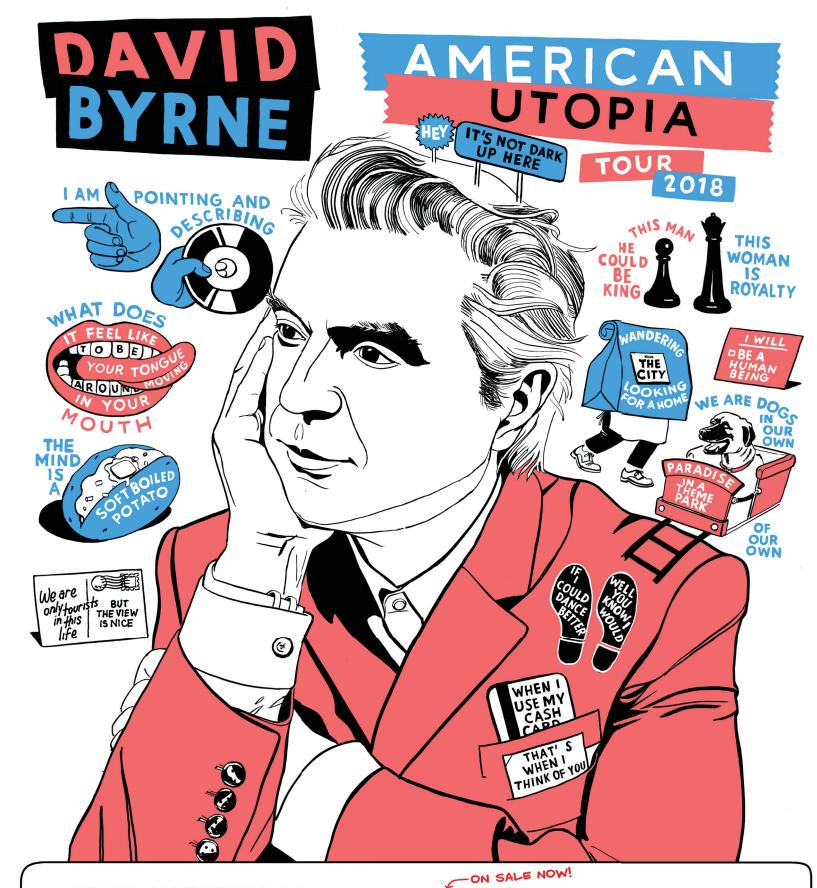
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BIG HEART

Mr. Rogers enchants the Phillips neighborhood



BRUCE SILCOX

BY JAY GABLER

n paper, nothing sounds more boring than a play about what a great guy Fred Rogers was. Who's ever had a bad word to say about the host of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*? In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, though, has crafted a show that's not only far from boring, it's deeply moving.

In the works for over two years, *Make Believe Neighborhood* both tells the story of Fred Rogers and dramatizes the ways his values are being put into action right in the theater's Phillips neighborhood. There's even aerial video of the area, intercut with video of a Lake Street cardboard model a la the Neighborhood of Make-Believe.

The play was directed by Bart Buch, created and performed in collaboration with artists including revered puppeteer Masanari Kawahara. The artists have realized no fewer than 13 models of Mister Rogers in various sizes—including larger-than-life-sized heads, which would be creepy if the TV legend wasn't portrayed with such a sense of wonder and reverence.

The show unfolds in a series of vignettes that alternate tales about the actual Fred Rogers with the stories of neighborhood residents. The visually inventive production incorporates video precisely mapped by programmer Kevin Springer, projected onto set elements like giant building blocks and a model fish tank.

We learn about Rogers' childhood with caring adults ("Look for the helpers"), about his interests in music and art, and about the

MAKE BELIEVE NEIGHBORHOOD

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre 1500 E. Lake St., Minneapolis 612-721-2535; through February 25

way he incorporated messages of peace into his program during the Vietnam and Cold War eras. Each story has a distinctive look and style, deploying puppets and props that entrance the eye just as Rogers' own did.

The same creative approach is used to tell neighborhood stories like that of Wayne Bugg, who manages the St. Vincent De Paul thrift store. Bugg and his customers are portrayed as lamps with faces cut into their paper shades, which rotate to reflect the characters' changing moods.

It's all united by a heartbreaking and endearing soundscape created live by Martin Dosh. Along with keyboards, percussion, and other instruments, Dosh samples Rogers compositions like "Won't You Be My Neighbor?," "It's Such a Good Feeling," and "It's You I Like" as newly performed by a wide range of voices. (Credited collaborators include Sylvan Esso, Andrew Bird, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, and Jayanthi Kyle.)

The juxtaposition of "make believe" puppetry with real-life stories is extraordinarily poignant, and it all comes together at the show's beautifully surreal conclusion, as the local and national blend into the international and even the cosmic. Bring some tissue, especially if you've been disheartened by the hateful "America first" rhetoric now filling the airwaves. What would Lady Aberlin say if she heard that coming from King Friday?



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Written by: Keona Tranby



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STREET Style

DAPPER DISPLAY "Welcome to the North" event at Askov Finlayson on January 30. BY ELLEN LAWSON









WALE AGBOOLA

29, PHOTOGRAPHER, STORYTELLER

What are you wearing?

Hat by Supreme, Brooks Brothers trench, Levi's jeans, Tretorn shoes.

Describe your style:

Unapologetically English—simple, effortless, classic fit. I wear things I feel comfortable in.

Best coat brands?

Canada Goose. It's everything plus more.

How do you get ready for the weekend?

There is nothing like getting a fresh mustache lineup at the barbershop; it's a before-the-weekend essential.

JOE HENRY

34, SALES

What are you wearing?

Stormy Kromer hat, Pendleton coat and scarf, Banana Republic jeans.

Describe your style:

The twentysomethings in my office say I dress like an old man. They mean it as a burn, but I take it as a compliment. I find my best clothes at second-hand stores and estate sales.

Tips for winter menswear?

Start with quality brands that keep you warm. Classic woodsy hand-me-downs are durably utilitarian and don't fall out of style. Take some chances with color.

MANNY TAPIA

24, SHINOLA DETROIT STORE MANAGER

What are you wearing?

Topman wool overcoat, CK wool sweater, Wigwam 743 neck warmer, Levi's 510, Adidas Stan Smith, Shinola Detroit watch.

Describe your style:

Clean and classic Swedish designs, aspiring to be somewhere between Nick Wooster and Steve McQueen.

Tips for winter menswear?

Monochromatic layering is the way to go, and never forget your chapstick.

Best coat brands?

COS, Filson, and Pendleton are just a few.

SAM SCHEMMEL

22, ACCOUNT COORDINATOR

What are you wearing?

Banana Republic pea coat and button-down, Zara sweater and pants, Banana Republic loafers.

Describe your style:

Mixy-matchy.

Tips for winter menswear?

Layering. I love to layer various kinds of shirts with sweaters and coats. You can create some cool looks and stay warm, which is priority #1.

How do you style mustache icicles?

Just own it! If you have icicles in your beard, that means you have one mean beard!









GETTING THE FEELING BACK

Darren Jackson overcomes multiple traumas to release the first Kid Dakota album in six years



BRIEANNA WATTERS

BY ERIK THOMPSON

usic can provide a lifeline for listeners and artists alike. The songs on Kid Dakota's new album, *Denervation*, certainly helped Darren Jackson recover from a horrific bicycle accident he suffered in South Dakota in 2014, as well as the despair that followed.

"I was so depressed after the accident," Jackson says. "I broke my pelvis, had a couple of surgeries, and I was totally bedridden for three months. I was in tons of pain. I had a lot of nerve damage, so it was like my body was on fire all the time. I would sleep two hours a night, I couldn't eat anything, I was just massively depressed. I basically just wanted to die, and that's not an exaggeration. It was the most traumatic experience I ever had in my life. It just shook me."

When the feeling finally started to return to his leg and his body began to heal, Jackson was encouraged and reinvigorated. "That's when I got really excited about everything. I got excited about life,

I got excited about music," he says. "It was really a wake-up call to embrace the possibilities I had."

That new outlook on life gradually extended to songwriting, with Jackson using music as a form of therapy to help him out of his dark state of mind. The eight tracks on *Denervation* are raw, unguarded examinations of the intense physical and mental pain that Jackson experienced. But within that anguish, Jackson expresses hope and a determination to overcome his ailments.

In December 2014, Jackson was encouraged to bring his new tunes to Minnesota by his old friend John Kuker, who hooked him up with Birthday Suits drummer Matthew Kazama and offered recording time in Pachyderm Studios, which Kuker purchased in 2011. Shortly after their promising three-day tracking session in January 2015, though, Kuker died from a heart attack.

"It was the last record that John ever worked on, and he was one of my best friends," Jackson says, holding back tears. "It feels like a piece of John is in there, and that was the last interaction that I

KID DAKOTA DENERVATION RELEASE SHOW

11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Icehouse in Minneapolis

ever had with him. John told me that it was the best thing he's ever done, and he was really proud of it. But it was just really hard to come back to it without him being there."

Jackson continued to tinker with the songs while he was in grad school at Virginia Tech, but wasn't in the proper headspace to dive back into songs so emotionally charged with memories of his lost friend. Only after he got married and moved back to Minneapolis last summer was Jackson finally able to put the finishing touches on the album in his home studio in Northeast. To help flesh out the sound he was after, he enlisted some Minnesota music all-stars: Alan Sparhawk, Martin Dosh, Jeremy Ylvisaker, Andrew Broder, Jeremy Messersmith, Dave Simonett, Todd Trainer, and Johnny and Molly Solomon.

"I found that when I bring other people in, it tends to not sound so monolithic. It









produced by Fearless Comedy Productions.

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sat : february 10

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MUSIC

sounds more diverse," Jackson says. "I especially like to bring in people who are really confident with improvising. I like to capture them doing something unexpected. Whereas I'm really precise, and I go at it very methodically and build the song up, I like to have these other people come in and add some really unique, distinct ornamentation to it."

There's a thematic arc to the album, which starts at a definite low point the thunderous, insistent title trackand gradually grows more optimistic, reflecting the healing process Jackson underwent while writing and recording. Lead single "The Convalescent" begins with the rhythm of a heartbeat that offsets the forsaken opening lyrics: "Now I know exactly how it feels to be left for dead/No hope, no future, convalescent in a bed." On the track, Jackson compares his ordeal to that of Gregor Samsa, who mutates into a cockroach as his old world and familiar habits change forever in Kafka's The Metamorphosis. But by the time he reaches the dreamy haze of the final track, "Pills," Jackson accepts the challenge of facing reality without pharmaceuticals, trusting that he can sleep through the night without fear of the nightmares of his past returning.

"It is sort of a conceptual album, I mean, it's not like The Wall or something, that rigidly conceptual," Jackson jokes. "The albums that I tend to like the most have a theme that runs through them. So, I wanted this theme of injury and convalescence and recovery to be the arc that these songs follow. It does start at the lowest point. The first song is really brutal, and I wanted it to convey the force and impact of the injury."

While much of Denervation was inspired by tragic events and troubled times, Jackson now views the record in a joyful way. "To me, in a sense, it's a really happy album," Jackson admits. "Because if you had told me a week after my accident that everything is going to be OK, you're going to be all right, and you're going to write this record about it, I would have been so insanely relieved. The fact that this album happened, and I'm as good as I need to be in terms of my health, I'm happy with that."

Jackson has experienced firsthand how music can serve as a beacon during dark days. "It felt so good when I started healing to be playing music again. It was the most alive that I've ever felt in my whole life." Jackson says. "Music was the only thing that I could hold onto that seemed positive in my life. Everything else seemed uncertain and menacing, and music was something that I had control of. It was something I could actually do. It was so important to me, so crucial. It still is."



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"Eighty percent of success is just showing up," someone or other once said. The adage applies to romantic/ sexual success as well as professional success, SACK, but showing up easily accounts for 90 percent of success in the BDSM/leather/fetish scene. (Being a decent human being accounts for the other 110 percent*.) Because if you aren't showing up in kink spaces-online or IRL—your fellow kinksters won't be able to find or bind you. But you don't have to take my word for it....

"The leather scene is a diverse place with tons of outlets and avenues, depending on how you navigate your life and learn," said Amp from Watts the Safeword (wattsthesafeword.com), a kink and sex-ed website and YouTube channel. "When I was first getting started, I found a local leather contingent that held monthly bar nights and discussion groups that taught classes for kinksters at any level. It provided an easy way into the community, and it helped me meet new people, make new friends, and find trustworthy play partners. If you're a tad shy and work better online, these contingents have Facebook groups or FetLife pages you can join. And YouTube has a channel for everyone in the kink spectrum from gay to straight to trans to nonbinary and beyond!"

"Recon.com is a great option for gay men," said Metal from the gay male bondage website MetalbondNYC.com. "It's a site where you can create a profile, window-shop for a play buddy, and 'check his references.' Even better, if you can, go to a public event like IML, MAL, or CLAW, or to a play party like the New York Bondage Club, where you can participate in a monitored space with other people around, or just watch the action. Don't forget the motto 'safe, sane, and consensual,' and be sure to have a safe word! And if you do want to explore



Dan Savage

bondage, take precautions. Never get tied up in your own home by someone you don't know. If you go to his or her place, always tell a trusted friend where you are going. And when hooking up online, never use Craigslist."

"Be cautious," said Ruff of Ruff's Stuff blog. "There are people out there who view 'kink newbies' as prey. Anytime anyone-top or bottom-wants to rush into a power-exchange scene, that's a red flag. Always get to know a person first. A good-quality connection with any potential playmate is achieved only through communication. If they are not interested in doing the legwork, they're not the right person for you."

Follow Metal on Twitter @Metalbond-NYC, follow Amp @Pup_Amp, and follow Ruff@RuffsStuffBlog.

I'm a mid-20s, above-average-looking gay dude into spanking guys. The weird thing is, the only guys I can find to spank are straight. It's not that they're closeted—most of them go on to have girlfriends, and that's when we stop—and they make it clear they don't want anything sexual to happen. No complaints on my end! But why don't they want a woman spanking them?

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* Math is hard.

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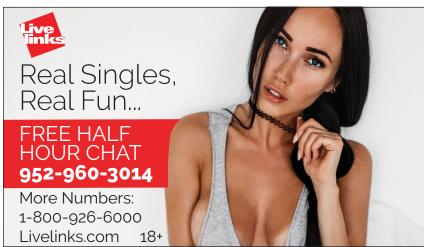




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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): British athlete Liam Collins is an accomplished hurdler. In 2017, he won two medals at the World Masters Athletics Indoor Championships in South Korea. Collins is also a stuntman and street performer who does shows in which he hurdles over barriers made of chainsaws and leaps blindfolded through flaming hoops. For the foreseeable future, you may have a dual capacity with some resemblances to his. You could reach a high point in expressing your skills in your chosen fledi, and also branch out into extraordinary or flamboyant variations on your specialty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When he was 32, the man who would later be known as Dr. Seuss wrote his first kid's book, And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street. His efforts to find a readership went badly at first. Twentry-seven publishers rejected his manuscript. On the verge of abandoning his quest, he ran into an old college classmate on the street. The friend, who had recently begun working at Vanguard Press, expressed interest in the book. Volial Mulberry Street got published. Dr. Seuss later said that if, on that lucky day, he had been strolling on the other side of the street, his career as an author of children's books might never have happened. I'm telling you this tale, Taurus, because I suspect your chances at experiencing a comparable stroke of luck in the coming weeks will be extra high. Be alert

III. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A survey of British Christians found that think it's bad to, say, steal and kill and lie, they don't regard it as a sin to revere idols, work on the Sabbath, worship other gods, or use the Lord's name in a curse. In accordance with the astrological omens, I encourage you to be inspired by their rebellion. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to re-evaluate your old traditions and belief systems, and then discard anything that no longer suits the new person you've become.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): While serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Don Karkos lost the sight in his right eye after being hit by shrapnel. Sixty-four years later, he regained his vision when he got butted in the head by a horse he was grooming. Based on the upcoming astrological omens, I'm wondering if you'll soon experience a metaphorically comparable restoration. My analysis suggests that you'll undergo a healing in which something you lost will return or be returned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The candy cap mushroom, whose scientific name is Lactarius rubidus, is a burnt orange color. It's small to medium-sted and has a convex cap, But there its resemblance to other mushrooms ends. When dried out, it tastes and smells like maple syrup. You can grind it into a powder and use it to sweeten cakes and cookies and custards. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, this unusual member of the fungus family can serve as an apt metaphor for you right now. You, too, have access to a resource or influence that is deceptive, but in a good way: offering a charm and good flavor different from what its outer appearance midth indirects.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A grandfather from New Jersey decided to check the pockets of an old shirt he didn't wear very often. There Jimmie Smith found a lotter yicket he had stashed away months previously. When he realized it had a winning number, he cashed it in for \$24.1 million-just two days before it was set to expire. I suspect there may be a comparable development in your near future, although the reward would be more modest. Is there any potential valuable that you have forgotten about or neglected? It's not too late to claim it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The U.S. Geological Survey recently announced that it had come up with improved maps of the planet's agricultural regions. Better satellite imagery helped, as did more thorough analysis of the imagery. The new data show that the Earth is covered with 618 million more acres of croplands than had previously been thought. That's 15 percent higher than earlier assessments! In the coming months, Libra, I'm predicting a comparable expansion in your awareness of how many resources you have available. I bet you will also discover that you're more fertile than you have imagined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1939, Scorpio comic-book writer Bob Kane co-created the fictional superhero Batman. The "Capad Crusader" eventually went on to become an icon, appearing in blockbuster movies as well as TV shows and comic books. Kane said one of his inspirations for Batman was a flying machine envisioned by Leonard da Vinci in the early 16th century. The Italian artist and inventor drew an image of a winged glider that he proposed to build for a human being to wear. I bring this up, Scorpio, because I think you're in a phase when you, like Kane, can draw inspiration from the past. Go scavenging through history for good ideas!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I was watching a four-player poker game on TV. The folksy commentator said that the assortment of cards belonging to the player named Mike was "like Anna Kournikova," because "it looks great but it never wins." He was referring to the fact that during her career as a professional tennis player, Anna Kournikova was feted for her physical beauty but never actually won a singles title. This remark happens to be a useful admonishment for you Sagiturians in the coming weeks. You should avoid relying on anything that looks good but never wins. Put your trust in influences that are a bit homely or unassuming but far more apt to contribute to your success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A Chinese man named Wang Kalyu bought two black-furred puppies from a stranger and took them home to his farm. As the months passed by, Wang noticed that his pets seemed unusually hungry and aggressive. They would sometimes eat his chickens. When they were two years old, he finally figured out that they weren't dogs, but rather Asian black bears. He turned them over to a local animal rescue center. I bring this to your attention, Capricorn, because I suspect it may have a resemblance to your experience. A case of mistaken indentity? A surprise revealed in the course of a ripening process? A mistaken indentity a surprise revealed in the course of a ripening process? A mistaken indentity and corrections.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Charles Nelson Reilly was a famous American actor, director, and drama teacher. He appeared in or directed numerous films, plays, and TV shows. But in the 1970s, when he was in his forties, he also spent quality time impersonating a bannan in a series of commercials for Bic Banana Ink Crayons. So apparently he wasn't overly attached to his dignity. Pride didn't interfere with his ability to experiment. In his pursuit of creative expression, he valued the arts of playing and having fun. I encourage you to be inspired by his example during the coming weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to ancient Greek writer Herodotus, Persians didn't hesitate to deliberate about important matters while drunk. However, they wouldn't finalize any intoxicated decision until they had a chance to re-evaluate it while sober. The reverse was also true. Choices they made while sober had to be reassessed while they were under the influence of alcohol. I bring this to your attention not because I think you should adhere to similar guidelines in the coming weeks. I would never give you an oracle that required you to be buzzed. But I do think you'll be wise to consider key decisions from not just a coolly rational mindset, but also from a frisky intuitive perspective. To arrive at a wise verdict, you need both.

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GAME TIME

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Last week's puzzle omitted several clues. We apologize for the error. Find the complete puzzle below.

Across

- 1 Dozing off for a moment
- 8 LOLcat greeting
- 11 '80s punk label that launched 40-Across
- 14 End the relationship
- 15 Matt Lauer's soon-to-be ex-wife Roque
- 17 Moderate gaits
- 18 Some Arp work
- 19 Zings
- 20 Intricate ornamental metalwork
- 21 Make contact (with)
- 23 "Big Three" summit site
- 24 Last call for some places
- 25 Some Vans
- 27 Place near Sundance?
- 29 Shopper's aid
- 31 Barnyard dames
- 32 Big test
- 33 Bowling spots
- 34 Loom string
- 35 Norse god who is 36-Across's brother
- 36 Norse god who is 35-Across's brother
- 37 Your lady friend's
- 38 Painting on plaster
- 40 ___ Youth (punk rock icons)

- 2 Spanish homes
- 43 You'd better believe them
- 45 Soothsayers
- 47 Root (for)
- 49 Put in a separate spot
- 50 Startled
- 52 Like stamp-free postage
- 53 Casserole dish
- 54 Compass dir.
- 55 Rocket man, once
- 56 Big bucks

Down

- 1 "The Good Place" channel
- 2 King Abdullah, e.g.
- 3 Relating to prison
- Intercepting weapon
- 5 Japanese flower-arranging
- 6 Pillow that helps breastfeeding moms
- 7 Google Maps setting
- "___ taken an extra ten seconds ..."
- 9 Sports talk radio types
- 10 Aloo gobi cuisine
- 11 Commence fighting
- 12 Group that barely runs by?
- 13 French head
- 16 Singer with the 1998

- hit "Save Tonight"
- Many pussy hat wearers

20

- 22 Healthy lunch
- 26 xxx-xx-xxxx ID
- 27 Casts out, as demons
- 28 Decide democratically
- 30 Spanish honorific
- 32 Small character in fantasy
- 33 Infuser contents
- oo illiusel collellis
- 37 Wallop
- 39 Bird in a coal mine
- 41 Central cores
- 44 Rounds in the playoffs
- 45 Coin with a torch
- 46 Start over
- 48 Contacts company
- 50 Law practitioner: Abbr.
- Schumer's party: Abbr.

Last Week's Answer

Ρ	R	0	Ν		Т	Ι	Ρ		Α	S	S	Ε	S	S
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